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Willis's Current Notes

1852

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WILLIS'S

CURRENT NOTES:

A SERIES OF ARTICLES

ON

Antiquities, Biography, Heraldry, History, Language, Literature, Topography, Curious Customs, &c.

SELECTED FROM

ORIGINAL LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

ADDRESSED DURING THE YEAR

1852,

TO THE PUBLISHER,

G. WILLIS,

GREAT PIAZZA, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON.

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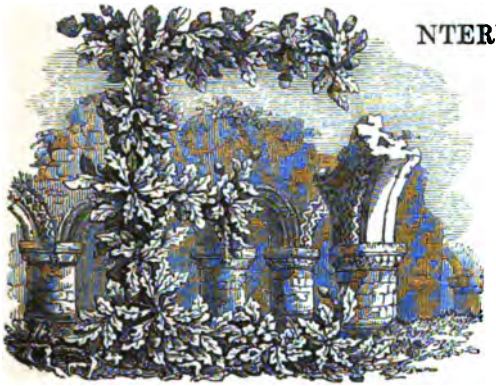
PREFACE.



NTERING as we now are upon the publication of a third volume of the "Current Notes," the Second Volume of which we have herewith the pleasure of presenting in a complete form to the Public, our first duty as it is our pleasure is to thank our Subscribers most cordially for the very liberal support we have received from them during its progress. It is so seldom that the productions of the Customer and the Tradesman form part of the same Periodical, that it is no wonder if the Publisher of the "Current Notes" feels a little elated by seeing his humble efforts for the entertainment of the Public in such good company. But this patronage, so far from dulling his exertions in his legitimate pursuit—that of promoting the diffusion of Books in their widest extent—will only stimulate him to fresh efforts, and while he continues to place before his Customers the best Books, he trusts that they will be as liberal as hitherto in their contributions of *Current Notes.*

The *Price Current of Literature,* indeed, now occupies a position distinct from that of any other Bookseller's Catalogue ever presented to the public, for it not only furnishes a monthly list of the principal New Publications, followed by a constant succession of Standard Works in every department of Ancient and Modern Literature, selected with care and judgment, but it likewise presents a medium for Literary Inquirers to prosecute their researches and interchange their opinions. Nor is this correspondence confined to our own land. From the Colonies and America, over which it ranges in its wide

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circulation, we continue to receive gratifying testimonials to its usefulness, as well as accessions to its columns, and have reason to believe it is duly appreciated by those whose favour it is our study to deserve and interest to secure.

The aim of the publisher has been to establish a literary organ of communication amongst his numerous Subscribers and Friends, by inviting their correspondence, and throwing open his columns to their inquiries and suggestions, and thus by propounding queries, solving difficulties, and eliciting new facts, rendering some slight service to the cause of Historical and Literary Truth. So cordially have they responded to this invitation, that the task of selection has been sometimes a difficult, though always a pleasing one. If there have been any communications from Correspondents which have not met with due regard and consideration, it must be pleaded in apology that this miscellany of curious information necessarily embraces so wide a field, that in gathering in the harvest it is not surprising if a few ears of corn escape the gleaner's hand. If it be said that occasionally too much notice has been taken of "unconsidered trifles," and that the objects regarded were too minute and insignificant to justify the patient attention bestowed upon them; the saying of Dr. Johnson may be adopted as a justification, that "the man who removes the smallest obstacle in the pathway of Literature becomes its benefactor." History is built up of fragments as the pyramid is formed of single stones; and if we have only laid bare one doubtful point, or elucidated one novel fact,—if we have but stripped off the moss clinging to some ruined archway of the past, or decyphered one mouldering inscription,—then our work has been accomplished, and our toil repaid.

The publisher wishes it to be distinctly understood that he is not the author of any representations or opinions which may appear in the *Current Notes*. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs must be considered alone responsible for their assertions. Holding himself aloof from the bias of all personal interest or party feeling, the publisher can make due allowance for difference of opinion, and like heralds in the tournament, after proclaiming the titles of the respective champions, quietly retires and awaits the issue of the fray. If in the heat of this literary joust of arms, the combatants have broken spears somewhat too hotly,

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let it be remembered that he is only a spectator of the chivalrous feud—which, after all, has for its sole object the rescue of Truth, in the words of the old knightly motto, "sans tache et sans reproche."

It is a mournful task to record the death of the gifted—to follow Genius to its grave. Our Obituary of the past year chronicles the death of many who were giants in the realms of thought, and whom the world of science and learning could ill afford to lose. WELLINGTON, of whom (as was said of Cæsar) it is difficult to decide whether he fought or wrote with the greater spirit; Eliot WARBURTON, the Historian and Novelist; MACGILLIVRAY, the Naturalist; SCROPE, the Deerstalker; JOHANNOT, the Artist; the gay and accomplished COUNT D'ORSAY; LANDSEER, the Engraver; MANTELL, the Geologist—are now numbered with the dead. PUGIN, too, has passed away—he, whose whole life was but one continued aspiration after the Beautiful in Christian Art; the harp of MOORE is silent, and awakens no echoes in the tomb.

Upon one occurrence of the past year, however, the publisher has particularly to congratulate his Subscribers; namely the Free Trade movement which has broken up the monopoly of the Booksellers' Association, increased the sale of books, and imparted new vigour and activity to the cause of literature. Cheapness in the price of books becomes an important auxiliary in the diffusion of knowledge. It is not merely a trade, but a social question, on account of the power it possesses of advancing intellectual improvement. The thirst for knowledge must be considerably influenced by the means we have at hand to supply and satisfy its craving. Long before Lord Campbell pronounced his judgment, the publisher was impressed with the truth of these views, and had steadily adhered to them as the basis of his business. The recent Postal Regulations have also tended to facilitate the purchase of books. By their means he has been enabled not only to forward the *Price Current* to his Subscribers at a trifling cost, but to execute and transmit orders from a thin pamphlet to a ponderous volume. Facilities of a like nature now exist for sending books to the Colonies; and instead of being obliged to forward as heretofore, even the smallest book as a package at a high charge for conveyance, any moderate-sized volume, if left open at the ends, will reach its destination in the letter-bags, at a very trifling cost.

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The publisher thinks it not inappropriate to reprint in this place the following

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. WILLIS begs to express his acknowledgments for the numerous interesting communications which have been forwarded to him, and will feel obliged by the receipt of any original articles on subjects, either of a literary or an antiquarian nature. Woodcuts, illustrative of subjects requiring them, will be executed at his expense.

All communications intended for insertion in the "*Current Notes*," must be accompanied by the Writer's real name and address, which are merely required as a guarantee of his good faith, and not for publication, except at his desire.

While cordially reiterating the sentiments expressed in the first of the preceding paragraphs, the publisher can assure his Subscribers that the work, intended as a boon to themselves, has proved an equal source of gratification to him; and so, with mutual good wishes, trusts they may long continue, in the words of Milton, "with plain and lightsome brevity to relate well and orderly things worth the noting."

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XIII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [JANUARY, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

THE ENVIRONS OF LONDON.

Original Letter from the late Sir Robert Peel.

Whitehall, July 7th, 1840.

MY DEAR SIR,

Do not you think a very interesting work might be written, to be entitled an Historical Account of the celebrated Villas in the neighbourhood of London. I mean rather the Villas that have been—than those that now exist.

Look at Horace Walpole's Song on Strawberry Hill. How many places are there mentioned which have historical recollections connected with them, which it would be worth preserving.

There must be always great interest about the localities in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. In that song alone are mentioned

Gunnersbury,	Greenwich,
Sion,	Marble Hill,
Chiswick,	Oatlands,
Strawberry Hill,	Clermont,

Southcote,

you might add Wanstead, Wimbledon, Holland House, and a hundred others—many with very curious anecdotes of local and personal history connected with them.

Perhaps I overrate the interest with which such a book would be read. I certainly do not, if it would equal that, with which I myself read the account of places in the neighbourhood of Paris, remarkable in history, but the traces of which—many of which at least—are fast fading away; such as

Maisons,	Sceaux,
Meudon,	Chantilli,
&c.	&c.

Hampton Court, the ancient Palace at Richmond, Kew, &c. &c. might enter into the work.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT PEEL.

The County Histories would form a substratum for the work—but every thing would depend upon the liveliness and accuracy of the details.

THE LATE J. M. W. TURNER, ESQ. R.A.

SIR,—As it appears from the public Prints that the late eminent artist, J. M. W. Turner, never sat for his Portrait;—and the only likenesses of him were taken by stealth, I send you a rude sketch which I took of him in the same way, about the year 1805 or 6. He was then on a visit at Mr. Fawkes's, of Farnley, where a number of grouse shooters had assembled,—and Turner had adopted the garb of a sportsman. His appearance, as well as his exploits on the moors, were the subject of much mirth.

One day we accompanied him on an excursion, for the purpose of taking a sketch of the magnificent scenery of Gordale, in Craven, from which he afterwards produced a finished painting.

My rude sketch of his person was considered a characteristic resemblance at the time; and though it has the air of a caricature, yet was not meant as such when it was drawn.

If you think it would interest the readers of your "Current Notes," you will perhaps give it as an illustration. If not, I will thank you to return it to me.

Yours, &c.

I. T. A.

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Monumental Brasses removed from the Churches of Fulham and Chelsea.

Mr. Geo. Willis,—Your Correspondent, under the head of "Antiquarian Sacrilege," (*Current Notes for December, p.* 91,) seems not to be aware that almost all Church Brasses, with very few exceptions, were torn from their places by the sectarian soldiers in Cromwell's time, who affected to consider such things idolatrous. They were for the most part sold for old brass, and some authority (I forget who at this moment), tells us that, in consequence of the number at one time brought into the market, the price of brass was decreased in proportion. There were very few Antiquaries in those days, consequently a very small number of these desecrated Brasses have been preserved, and for those we possess we are indebted to such men as Ashmole, Lilly, and others of that class, who, though sufficiently fantastic and visionary in their pursuits, were still men of some learning and taste.

Some, if not the whole of the lots alluded to by your Correspondent, came into the possession of the late John Meyrick, Esq., through an ancestor of his wife, whose name was "Rush," and the only sacrilege committed by the late Mr. Meyrick seems to have been the preservation of these things from destruction.

I have frequently heard the late Sir S. R. Meyrick mention these Brasses, and regret they were not in his possession. One of his Executors.

Sterne's Autograph.

Mr. Geo. Willis,—I have never met with the fact in print, that some few of the first editions of Tristram Shandy have the autograph of the author at the head of the first chapter in some or one of the volumes, a facsimile of which, in the 7th volume of the copy in my possession, I send you.

Whether this was done for the gratification of Sterne's particular friends, or for what other purpose, I am ignorant; perhaps some of your correspondents can throw some light upon the subject. A. C. K.

Ward's "Grand Rebellion."

I was rejoiced at the first glance at F. C. B.'s communication (p. 88 "Current Notes" for November), but doubts very soon arose, whether some oversight had not occurred in taking the portrait of *Robert* Bertie, for that enquired after, which is *Montague* Bertie. On turning to Granger I found this to be the case, for the portrait which F. C. B. has, is there given as *Robert*, so that I fear the right one remains yet *non est inventus*, for I do not consider "A Dealer," as speaking from any distinct recollection of such a portrait, which must be an 8vo. one, whereas Faithorne's is in 4to.

Oak House. A.

Date of Thomas Hood's Death.

Dec. 26th, 1851.

Sir,—I find, on referring to a biographical sketch added to an autograph of the late Thos. Hood, at the time of his death, that that event took place, as surmised by your correspondent C. ("Current Notes," p. 90), on 3rd May, 1845.

Yours obediently,

Mr. Willis. S. S.

Mrs. Fenwick observing in Willis's "Current Notes" that some one enquires when Hood died, she writes to say, he expired on the 3rd May, 1845. The above information Mr. Willis may depend upon being correct, as it is from the late Mr. Hood's daughter, who is married to the Rev. S. Broderip, Rector of Cossington, Somersetshire.

Three Rock Houses, Tenby, Jan. 15, 1852.

Blackwood's Magazine.—I. P. (Philadelphia, Nov. 18, 1851), writes to G. W.:

"Can you tell me who contributed to Blackwood's Magazine, May, 1838, the pleasant paper, 'Father Tom and the Pope; or a Night at the Vatican?' The impression prevails here that it was written by Maginn."

It was understood at the time to be a Mr. Ferguson, a writer in some Dublin paper,—a Wexford man.

F. M.

Fraser's Magazine.

Sir,—Your correspondent, A. K., ("Current Notes" for December, p. 90), will find in Fraser's Magazine, No. 121, Vol. 21, a list of the portraits published in that periodical.

Mr. Willis. A.

Caussin's Holy Court.

Landscape Terrace, Cork,
Dec. 29. 1851.

Dear Sir,—For the information of your two correspondents, "A Subscriber," and "R. O. W." ("Current Notes" for December, p. 95), I beg to repeat my assertion that there was an edition of "The Holy Court," by N. Caussin, published in *Corke*. In fact, (if I mistake not), there were two editions, one in 1765, without plates; and one in 1767, with very excellent plates. I can procure an imperfect copy of the former for either of your correspondents for one shilling; and a fine copy of the latter for thirty to thirty-five shillings, full calf, with plates.

The work was printed in Broad-lane—(perhaps so called quasi "lucus a non lucendo," as the lane is certainly rather narrow)—and was very well got up. The date and place of printing are thus given in the first edition: Corke: "Printed anno Domini 1765."

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

Wm. C. Neligan.

Mr. Willis.

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The Sons of Noah.

Dec. 22nd.

Sir,—I have examined Parkhurst's Hebrew Lexicon with reference to O. S.—your correspondent's query, (see "Current Notes" for November, p. 85), concerning Shem, Ham, and Japhet, and cannot discover the names to have any such primary meaning as was there ascribed to them; though perhaps by a little straining, and a few far-fetched ideas, such an interpretation might be given —but it is so wholly unworthy of any one to torture his imagination to suppose that the original signification of words should have been framed to suit a climate, that nothing more need be said.

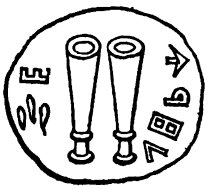
I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
C. M. J.

Mr. Willis.

Turkish Coin.

Southwick, near Oundle,
Jan. 1st. 1852.

Sir,—In Kitto's Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature, vol. 2. p. 379, there is a coin illustrated thus: "5. supposed ancient Jewish coin, representing drums." Kitto gives his authorities at the end of the article on Musical Instruments.



Allow me to give the figure of the coin, and its interpretation: Read from left to right, the letters, or rather words, are: S F T R Ch N: in Turkish it reads, *The Boundary of the Turks;* and the two drum sticks! are the pillars of Hercules, or the Calpe columna, and the Abyla columna.—*N.B.* The *S* (for *sh*) is a Cuneiform letter.

T. R. Brown.

Mr. Willis.

The Devonshire Collection.—In reply to the inquiry of Mr. Willis's correspondent, "A Young Numismatist," ("Current Notes" for December, p. 95), he is informed that the Duke of Devonshire's Collection of Coins was sold by auction a few years ago, and produced a very inconsiderable sum, to the surprise of everybody. This was accounted for by the manner in which the Coins were catalogued. It was well known as "The Devonshire Collection."

S. H. H.

Discovery of the Tomb of St. Berichert, or, Berechtune.—Mr. Windele the local historian of Cork, has circulated among his friends a Lithographic drawing of this very interesting monument, which he found at Tullilease, a small hamlet on the border of the Counties of Cork and Limerick, within a mile of Dromcolleher. The tomb is a much more highly ornate specimen of an ancient cross than any of those engraved in Dr. Petrie's work on the Round Towers of Ireland. At Tullilease there are the ruins of an old Romanesque church, which was dedicated to St. Berichert or Berihert, a Saxon, whose name is now Anglicised into Benjamin, and whose death is recorded at A.D. 839, in the Four Masters. The Legend on the stone is in Latin, (but very sorry Latin), and in the Irish character. It reads, "QUICUNQUE (for æ) HUNC TITULUM LEGERIT ORAT (for *orate* or *oret*) PRO BERECHTUNE. On the upper part of the stone, in one corner, are the letters ꝑ p̄s or pps̄.

Richard III.

January 10th, 1852.

Sir,—All our historians assert that Richard, Duke of Glo'ster paved his way to the crown by bastardizing, imprisoning, and assassinating his two nephews, Edward Prince of Wales and Richard Duke of York. How then are we to account for the provision made in the Wardrobe Roll for the Coronation of Richard III., July 3rd, 1483, (published in the Antiquarian Repertory, Vol. I. p. 29, 1807;) "*The deliveree of divers Stuff delivered for the use of Lorde Edwarde, son of late Kyng Edward the Fourthe, and of his Henxemen?*" Then follows a particular account of the materials for the "*appuraill and array*" of "*Prince Edward*" and his "*Henxemen.*" Was he really present at his uncle's coronation? There is no mention of the Duke of York. The Declaration of Tyrrell and Dighton, published in the ensuing reign by Henry VII., says, the young princes were murdered in July, 1483. If the words did not expressly state "*Edwarde, son of late Kyng Edwarde the Fourthe,*" I should have concluded that it meant Richard III.'s own son Edward, by Lady Ann Nivelle, at that time about nine years of age.

Yours, &c. O. S.

American Testimonial to Mrs. Cowden Clarke.

New York, 13th December, 1851.

About the time you receive this, you will probably hear of an American testimonial to that amiable woman, Mrs. Cowden Clarke, to be presented to her by the American Minister, Mr. Abbot Lawrence, in the name of the subscribers, at the head of whom stands America's greatest and best statesman, Daniel Webster.

This testimonial is in the shape of a magnificent Rosewood Library Chair, richly carved, and covered with the finest French Satin Brocade. It is at this moment *on* the Atlantic, *in* the "Atlantic," and insured by the Atlantic Insurance Company, for three hundred dollars.

As the fame of Shakspere is world-wide, subscriptions of five dollars each came in from all parts of the American Union—from the most northerly of all, Maine,—to Mexico. From Wisconsin, in the *far*-far-far West, to the shores of the Pacific, at San Francisco —they are thousands of miles apart from each other.

Why have you left it to us poor Yankees "to take the wind out of your sails," in presenting a testimonial to the authoress of the Concordance to Shakspere?

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Mr. Payne Collier, and such like dear fellows, who know so many eminent wealthy literati, ought, *now* that we have set you the example, to get up a subscription, and present Mrs. Clarke with some better Shaksperean testimonial than a Chair! What say you to a 'FIRST' Best Bed? But if the hangings of it beat our satin brocade cover, why I'll hang myself in despair—no I won't, but I'll eat it—bed—feathers and all. The Chair was to have been covered with the richest silk Genoa velvet, of a regal scarlet or crimson, but the lady of our Secretary of State, Mrs. Daniel Webster, would have it, that velvet covers were quite old-fashioned; and as ladies best know what will suit ladies, she was asked the favour to select the cover, and *I guess* you will admire it.

Now for the *freedom* of America. Collins gave the Chair *free* passage. Edwards, Sandford and Co. conveyed the case to the ship, and will convey it from Liverpool to London, *free*. They are Express men, and thus do we "go a-head."

CATHERINE HAYES AND FATHER MATHEW.

G. W.'s Correspondent adds:—

"I receive your 'Notes' regularly. The story about Katy Hayes in your November Number, p. 88, is somewhat embellished by '*your New York Special Reporter*.' I regret to tell you that she, poor girl, has quite *put her foot in it* here, and I am afraid will return poorer than when she came. She or her agent or agents, pursued a silly course by, *it is said*, keeping almost open house to her countrymen at the Astor house, a very expensive hotel, where she ran up an enormous bill, and being unable to pay, the sheriff's officers carried off the receipts at some of her concerts—particularly that which she gave for that humbug hypocrite Father Mathew. There has been a great deal about it in our papers. Doctor Joy returned to England some time ago in disgust. Mathew absolutely had the temerity to make it appear that he could work miracles, *publicly*, in the face of a large Catholic congregation, by restoring the sick and lame to health!"

ETHNOLOGY.—"G.W.'s New York Special Reporter," whose embellished style has been questioned in the preceding paragraph, states, that he has forwarded a pamphlet, for which he will be duly thanked when it is received, "giving an account of a *pretended* journey to the city of Eximaya, in Central America, by an Englishman and two Spaniards, who are all 'gone dead.'" Observing that, "It is a good Arabian Night's hoax. You will see," he remarks, "the pamphlet is dated 1850, but the children have only been exhibited here this week. There is *no mistake* about them, they are evidently children of a distinct and unknown race, come from whence they will. The recession of their foreheads is extraordinary. Their heads are wonderfully small, and in exact proportion to their bodies and limbs. They are not dwarfs but pigmies; about twelve years of age, lively and playful. They are not at Barnum's Museum, but at the rooms of the Society Library, and are exciting very great attention."

THE JARVIS LIBRARY SALE.

This Sale, which has so long attracted the attention of American Bibliopoles, commenced on Tuesday, Nov. 4th. It was the means of drawing together agents for the most prominent Libraries in the United States. Among others, the following Colleges and Institutions were represented:—Smithsonian Institution, Harvard College, Yale College, General Theological Seminary of New York, College of New Jersey, Brown University, Rochester University, Andover Theological Seminary, New York State Library, New York Society Library, and the Historical Society of New York.

The sale being the largest that ever took place in America, of any private library, the books brought fair prices. A volume of Tracts, containing the American Whig, &c. sold for 22 dollars 75 cents, to Bancroft, the historian. Byzantinæ Historiæ Scriptores, a unique set, containing a beautiful MS. translation of the third volume of Nicephorus Gregoras, sold for 475 dollars, to Prof. Ticknor, of Boston. Biblia Sacra Polyglotta, being the celebrated COMPLUTENSIAN POLYGLOTT, 130 dollars, to the Rochester University. The Paris Polyglott, 100 dollars, to Geo. Livermore, Esq. Boston. Vetus Testamentum Græcum, 40 dollars, Harvard College. Muratori, 37 vols. folio, 207 dollars, to the Theological Seminary, New York. Cranmer's Bible, 26 dollars, to Rochester University. Tyndale's Translation of the Pentateuch, 41 dollars, to John Wiley. Duchesne's Historical Collections, 24 dollars 50 cents, to Brown University, &c. &c.

THE PERIODICAL PRESS OF THE METHODISTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The *Christian Advocate and Journal* has a circulation of from 25 to 29,000 copies. The *Missionary Advocate* circulates 20,000 copies, and the *Sunday School Advocate* no less than 65,000 copies, with a yearly sale of Sunday School Books amounting to upwards of £1000, or 5000 dollars.

"WOODMAN, SPARE THAT TREE."

GENERAL Morris, who is associated with Mr. N. P. Willis as Editor, and publisher of the "Home Journal," in New York, was, as all the world knows—or at least, as the United States ought to know, for it is something to be proud of to be possessed of a real living poet in these days—was the author of the words of a charming ballad, entitled, "Woodman, spare that Tree," which was sung effectively by an illustrious scion of the house of Russell. The parentage of this lyric having been claimed by a respectable Boston paper, (*The Sunday News*), on behalf of a deceased literary gentleman named Woodward, who is said, in an unguarded moment, to have pawned his reputation upon the Woodman, to the gallant General, for a glass of grog; the General indignantly repudiates the whole statement; repeating that, "a slander well hoed grows like the devil;" and labours to establish the fact, that the American General Morris is not to be by posterity identified with the English Captain of the same name—as a song writer.

FUSBOS.

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The Bawdrick or Baldrock. (*Illustrated.*)

The Rectory, Clyst St. George, Topsham,
Jan. 2, 1852.

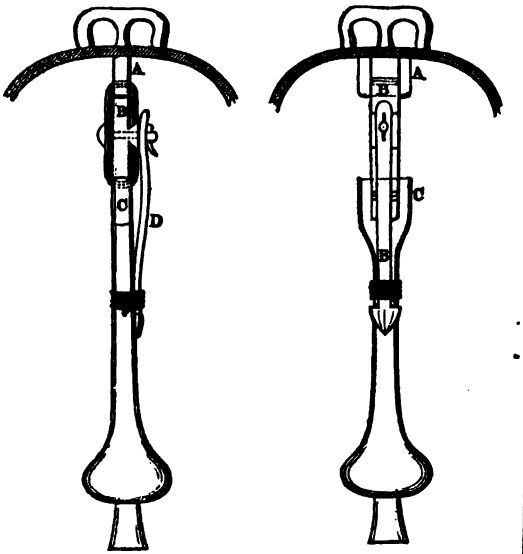
Sir,—You are publishing, in your "Current Notes," some nice little cuts of interesting relics of antiquity, for which all who delight in such things must feel thankful to you.

May I ask you to put into your cutter's hands the rough sketch which I send with this; and will you allow it to be introduced to the notice of your readers, as an illustration of the Bawdrick, or Baldrock, which is the leather gear, with its appurtenances of the upper part of the clapper in old black-letter bells, and about which your readers may have seen a discussion, with extracts from old Churchwarden's accounts, in another valuable periodical of like character to your own, but in which at present no illustrations of any kind are admitted. You will oblige one of your subscribers.

H. T. E.

Mr. Willis.

Sketch of the Gear of an Old Bell Clapper.



A. Crown Staple.

B. Bawdrick or Baldrock of old Churchwarden's books, viz. stout white leather straps, shewing how fitted with intervening piece of *hard wood and pin.*

C. Clapper, with stirrup top.

D. "*Busk Board,*" which at the lower end is tied round the stem of the clapper, and by the pin above keeps the wood and leather all steady together, and the clapper works or swings on the *crown* staple, having leather on the upper side, and hard wood *under.*

H. T. E.

Turnbuckle and Latch.—The figure you have engraved on p. 91 of your December "Notes," as a *Turnbuckle*, is the common casement *latch* of the 17th century; which may be found attached to the iron frame of casement windows in many old farm houses.

A latch is not a turnbuckle, and no ironmonger's apprentice would confound the two. A latch is a bar moving up and down in a limited space—or, if backwards and forwards, as in some locks—it is called the latch-bolt. A turnbuckle, as its name implies, turns round, and is only limited by the notch, &c. by which it holds. They are chiefly of two kinds: one is a spindle, with a knob or ring at one end, and a tongue or buckle at the other; another is a handle with a tongue attached, moving together freely round, upon a pin or rivets. This latter kind has taken the place of the casement latch represented in your "Current Notes" in present use.

One who has been an Ironmonger's Apprentice.

Architectural Restorations in Ireland.

A small subscription, which was raised for the purpose of sustaining the failing walls of Buttevant Abbey, in the County of Cork, is about to be followed by Mr. Thomas Tobin, of Ballincollig, taking measures to uphold the Castle of Buttevant.

The same good spirit animates Mr. Odell, the proprietor of Ardmore, in the County of Waterford, who has determined to preserve the west gable of the Old Church, which is covered over with figures that, according to Ryland's History of Waterford, "with a good imagination, and some knowledge of the ancient Scriptures, may be made to exhibit an epitome of the history of the Old Testament."

The Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

16th January, 1852.

Sir,—If your refer to your "Current Notes" for April last, you will find engraved, at p. 27, a tobacco pipe, found when the Golden Lion Inn at Fulham was pulled down in April, 1836. Now, Sir, it appears to me that this drawing of mine has been copied, without acknowledgment, from your Notes, in the Transactions of the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Session iii. 1850-51, to illustrate a paper by Andrew James Lamb, Esq. Plate IV. No. 14. If not, I humbly conceive that Mr. Lamb, or the Rev. Dr. Hume, the Secretary, on behalf of the Society, is bound to state where the original pipe which figures in their Transactions exists, and how and when Mr. Lamb obtained his drawing or knowledge of it. This alone can disprove the charge which I make against the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, of *copying without acknowledgment*, my sketch *from Willis's Notes.*

T. M.

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Archæological Publications.—In addition to those enumerated in G. W.'s "Current Notes" for December (p. 93), the first Number of "*Reliquiæ* Antiquæ Eboracenses, or Remains of Antiquities relating to York, has appeared.

In answer to W. B.'s communications, G. W. conceives that the best mode of making a local work of this nature known, would be by a circular letter addressed to the resident Nobility, Clergy, and Gentry of Yorkshire, soliciting their countenance and support.

The information desired respecting the publications of the Archæological Societies named, may be obtained by W. B. addressing himself to their respective Secretaries, *viz.*

M. A. Lower, Esq., Lewes.
Rev. Dr. Hume, Liverpool.
William Ayrton, Esq., Chester.
Samuel Tymms, Esq., Bury St. Edmunds, and
Henry Harrod, Esq. Norwich.

Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Mr. Willis is informed with reference to a paragraph which appeared in his "Current Notes" for December, p. 93, that the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, whose issues have been suspended since 1846, will forthwith resume publishing.

The Slogans of the North of England have been published by Mr. G. B. Richardson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The British Museum.—A recent resolution of the Trustees of this National Establishment has been considered, in certain Antiquarian circles, to present "*a fair specimen of double-dealing.*"

An Irish Numismatist.

Autographic Biography.

January 3rd, 1852.

Sir,—I trust I shall not trespass upon the limits of your courtesy, if I beg your assistance with regard to the accompanying list of names, about whom I am anxious to gain any information as to dates of birth, death, or any subject of interest connected with the individuals.

As I live in the country and have not the facility of access to a library for reference, I avail myself of the medium of your instructive and valuable publication, and beg to subscribe myself, with all good wishes,

Your obedient servant,
Ellen F.

Symonds' Inn.	24th April, 1787. Edward Montagu.
	No date. Marquis de Spinola.
St. Petersburg.	24th Jan. 1805. C. A. Pozzo di Borgo.
	No date. Geo. R. Collier, Commodore.
London. . .	13th March, 1820. W. Plumer.
	20th May, 1829. Jno. Bruce.
	No date. P. P. Jacob.

Rowland Hill and the Penny Postage.

The following is the commencement of a leading article on the Penny Postage, contained in the "*Times*," of Saturday, 9th August, 1851:—

"A traveller sauntering through the Lake districts of England some years ago, arrived at a small public-house just as the postman stopped to deliver a letter. A young girl came out to receive it. She took it in her hand, turned it over and over, and asked the charge. It was a large sum—no less than a shilling. Sighing heavily, she observed that it came from her brother, but that she was too poor to take it in, and she returned it to the postman accordingly. The traveller was a man of kindness as well as of observation; he offered to pay the postage himself, and in spite of more reluctance on the girl's part than he could well understand, he did pay it, and gave her the letter. No sooner, however, was the postman's back turned, than she confessed that the proceeding had been concerted between her brother and herself, that the letter was empty, that certain signs on the direction conveyed all she wanted to know, and that as they could neither of them afford to pay postage, they had devised this method of franking the intelligence desired. The traveller pursued his journey, and as he plodded over the Cumberland fells, he mused upon the badness of a system which drove people to such straits for means of correspondence, and defeated its own object all the time. With most men such musings would have ended before the close of the hour, but this man's name was Rowland Hill, and it was from this incident and these reflections that the whole scheme of Penny Postage was derived."

I should be glad to know if there is any doubt as to the truth of this statement, as I fancied it had been contradicted. Could any of your Correspondents oblige me by giving me information on the subject, I should feel obliged.

I. E.

Enquiry.

Boston, January 15th, 1852.

Sir,—I send you a query for "Current Notes."

"Robbed between Sun and Sun."

Can any of your communicants favor me with the origin of this expression? It was employed to describe the late Revolution in Paris, by the "Examiner," and I have seen it as a quotation in a work of old date.

Y. S. N.

Dental Surgery.—In the observations on the progress of Geography and Ethnology, by Mr. John Russell Bartlett, read at the Meeting of the New York Historical Society in November and December, 1846, it is mentioned that in the exploration of a tumuli carried on by Dr. M. W. Dickeson, in the South-western States, chiefly in Mississippi, although in some instances extending to Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas, he found that Dentistry had been extensively practised by this ancient people, as plugging the teeth and inserting artificial ones, were common. In one instance five artificial teeth were found inserted in one subject.

T. C. B.

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CAPPING A STORY.—Rogers, the poet, was fond of telling the story of a gentleman who lost a shilling in Covent Garden Market, just at the corner of the Great Piazza, and on his return from India some five-and-twenty years afterwards, on passing the spot where he supposed the loss had taken place, remembered the circumstance, and looking about him on the pavement, picked up his shilling. Here Rogers, in his own inimitable way of telling a story, would pause, and then add—"IN HALFPENCE, *wrapped up in paper.*"

"I knew the man," said a witty friend to the poet, "but you have forgotten the most singular point of the story about the recovery of this lost shilling *just at the door of Willis the bookseller's place of business.*"

"I thought it sufficiently odd," replied the poetical banker, "our friend having found his shilling after so long a period, and only wish that my lost notes may turn up again in the same unexpected and amusing manner —*that notes turn up to me from Willis.*"

"Then you must have heard the whole story, and the very remarkable fact to which I refer? That in the paper which contained the four-and-twenty halfpence he found another filled with farthings, the exact amount of which when calculated, proved to be that of compound interest upon the shilling for five-and-twenty years one month and thirteen days."

Mr. Rogers has never since told the story.

ROBERT HOBLYN.

SIR,—Through the medium of your publication, can you tell me anything about "Robt. Hoblyn;" and what works he has published? I believe they were of a classical nature; and he was living in 1825.

Yours truly,

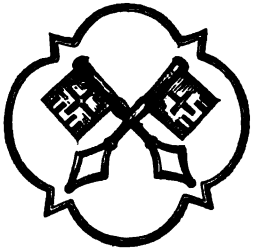
Jan. 2, 1852. A. K.

A TRAVELLING NAME.—I have heard or read somewhere of a story about one of the authors of the "Rejected Addresses"—indeed, I now remember that he told it to me himself—how that he once travelled in a stage coach with a very agreeable old lady, who was well acquainted with London society, and with whom he conversed for a considerable time about various mutual friends and circumstances that could only be known to them, or to their immediate circle, with so much familiarity, that the old lady's curiosity being roused, she ventured to inquire his name. "James Smith, madam," was the reply. "Oh, that's your travelling name, is it? But it won't do for me." J.

SMITH.—Has not some one written, or is not some one going to write, a history of the Smiths? It really might be made a very amusing book, and some one—I forget who—actually told me that "the far-famed Ruffian of the Adelphi," (O. S.) was collecting materials for or from such a book. I subscribe my real name—identify, if you can, Mr. Willis.

JOHN SMITH.

PILGRIM'S BADGE? — A Correspondent has kindly transmitted to G. W. a rubbing from which the annexed woodcut has been made, of a small brass ornament, found at Launde Abbey, in Leicestershire, which abbey or priory was founded by Rd. Basset, in the reign of Henry III. dissolved by Henry VIII., and Cromwell, Earl of Essex, had a grant of it. In the Chapel (all that remains of the Priory) is a monument to his son Gregory, Lord Cromwell, of the date of 1551. The ornament is supposed to be a Pilgrim's Badge, brought from Rome, and probably was buried with him.



1st January, 1852. M. C. S.

ANCIENT KEY.—I. D. is thanked for the drawing of an Ancient Key found in October last, in the parish of Stoke Holy Cross, near Warwick; but as no particular interest attaches to this key in an antiquarian point of view, it is not worth engraving.

THE LIBERTY STONE IN CASTLE STREET, LIVERPOOL.—T. B. B. (Burnley, 1st December) thanked, but the space at G. W.'s command does not permit of his inserting the extract forwarded to him from the *Liverpool Albion.*

PRINTS OF OLIVER CROMWELL AND "ST. LUKE'S DAY."

A "Young Print and Portrait Collector" would be obliged by any explanation respecting a portrait of Oliver Cromwell, of an allegorical nature, surrounded by various emblems and devices, which evidently bear upon the events of his life. He is represented standing between two columns, in armour, with a wreath of laurel in place of a helmet. This print has neither name or date of any kind upon it.

Another print is one marked published 1816, by J. T. Smith, called "St. Luke's day," a "poor painter removing;" is this intended as a caricature upon some artist of the time?

Jan. 6th, 1852.

D. E., 47, *Blessington Street, Dublin,* thanked for his suggestions. The R. I. A.—T. C. D. and the Dublin Society, however, cannot in the slightest degree influence the conduct of G. W.'s "Current Notes."

If these learned bodies regard their own situation, they will not object to "any slang, coarseness, or Americanisms." They should rather reflect how much America has and *probably* will teach young Ireland—BUT NOT *through* their agency, as publishers.

THE HOLY GRAHL, Δ. as confessedly "made up of quotations," is an article not suited to G. W.'s "Current Notes."

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Admission of Literary Inquirers to the Public Records.

Regulations under which permission will be given to Literary Inquirers to make searches among the Public Records, without payment of fees, contained in a letter addressed by the Right Honourable Sir John Romilly, Master of the Rolls to Sir Francis Palgrave, K.H., the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records: dated at the Rolls House, 4th December, 1851:—

1st. That the individuals seeking to avail themselves of the permission shall address a letter to the Deputy Keeper, stating generally their objects of research, so as to show that the applications are really and *bonâ fide* for literary purposes, and that the applicant shall also attend the Deputy Keeper personally thereon, and give such further explanation as may be required; and that thereupon the Deputy Keeper shall, if he be satisfied with the statement and explanation, authorise the Assistant Keepers to allow the applicant to inspect such Indexes of Records, and also such Original Records, and to make such copies or extracts in pencil required by the applicant as the Deputy Keeper may think advisable.

This mode of proceeding, which is equally required for the security of the Records, and for the protection of the business searchers, will in fact be beneficial to Literary Inquirers; for the more fully they explain their objects, the better will the Deputy Keeper and the other officers be able to direct them to the documents which may be useful to them.

2ndly. That all the applications before mentioned be entered in a book, and be reported to the Master of the Rolls.

3rdly. That a book be kept at each branch office, in which the Assistant Keeper shall enter a note or particular of the Rolls, Records, Books, or Documents, called for, inspected, or used by the applicant, nearly in the same manner, *mutatis mutandis*, as is practised with respect to Manuscripts in the British Museum.

But this book is to be considered as confidential, and not to be shown to the public without express permission of the Master of the Rolls or Deputy Keeper.

4thly. That, in case of any impropriety or abuse of the privilege, the Assistant Keepers do forthwith report the same to the Deputy Keeper, in order that he may bring the same before the Master of the Rolls.

It will be necessary also to explain to the Literary Inquirers that the time of the various officers and other persons employed in the Public Record Office is so wholly engrossed by the performance of their present duties, that it will not be possible for the officers to assist any Literary Inquirers beyond the production of the documents, and giving a general explanation, if needed, of their character and nature. No applicant ought to present himself who is not sufficiently acquainted with the hand-writing, abbreviations, and language of ancient documents, so as to be able to read and decipher their contents.

The Literary Inquirer will have free access to the documents, but, this being done, he will have to conduct the inquiry from these documents in such manner as his own knowledge and capacity may best enable him to do.

G. W. is informed that the reading Public are indebted to John Bruce, Esq., the Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries, for this important concession on the part of the Master of the Rolls; and it has been suggested that a suitable testimonial should be presented to Mr. Bruce by those historical inquirers who are likely to derive such valuable aid from his exertions.

F. S. A.

Literary Auctions.—That there is no lack of enthusiasm among amateurs for the possession of rare and curious works, is evidenced by the prices which some books of this class brought at a sale just concluded by Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, being the first sale of importance this season. Among them may be noticed the following:

Orloge (l') de Sapience, folio, *nouvellement imprimée à Paris*, 1493. A very splendid specimen of printing on vellum, *from the celebrated Press of* Verard, *ruled with red lines, bound in red morocco extra, gilt edges, by Bauzonnet, with a well made pigskin case to contain it.*

Of this singular Ascetical Romance, M. Van Praet states that six copies are known as being printed on vellum: of these three are in the National Library at Paris, all of which are more or less adorned with miniatures, two of them, like the present, having the summary of the chapters (left blank for the insertion of the miniatures) written in a contemporary hand on the margins. The Harleian copy, afterwards in the collections of Count Macarthy and Mr. Hibbert, was adorned with thirteen miniatures: the present beautiful volume has sixteen, the additional ones being at the commencement of the chapters, in which the same subjects are treated in a different manner. The whole of the fine miniatures are in the best style of French art. This lot sold for £45.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Children, John George. Science. Late Secretary R.S. Halstead, Kent.

Graefe, Dr. Christian. Greek and Roman Antiquities. St. Petersburgh. 11th December.

Jacob, William. F.R.S. Political Economist. 31, Cadogan Place. 17th December. Aged 89.

Luttrell, Henry. Wit and Poet. Brompton Square. 19th December. Aged 86.

Sadlier, Rev. Dr. Provost, Trinity College, Dublin. 14th December.

Steel, James. Editor and Proprietor Carlisle Journal. Carlisle. 16th December Aged 55.

Turner, Joseph Mallord William. R.A. 47, Queen Anne Street (Chelsea?) 19th December. Aged 76.

Warburton, Eliot. Historian and Novelist. Lost in the wreck of the Amazon. 4th January.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XIV.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [FEBRUARY, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

ETHNOLOGY.—The marvellous pamphlet published in New York, with reference to the Aztec Children exhibiting there, has reached G. W., with the copy to be presented to a distinguished traveller, which has been delivered to him; and he seems not inclined to disbelieve in the accuracy of any of its statements, whatever may be the opinion of G. W.'s New York Special Reporter. (See "Current Notes" for January, p. 4.)

The pamphlet purposes to give an account of the discovery of an idolatrous city called *Iximaya*, in Central America, with 85,000 inhabitants, situate somewhere about 16° 42′ N. and 91° 35′ W., whose priests seem to consider the flesh of Scotchmen to be a peculiar culinary luxury—when they can catch them. The information given to the discoverers of the ideal or real city of *Iximaya*, was "that a man of the same race as Senor Hammond, who was of a bright-florid complexion, with light hair and red whiskers, had been sacrificed and eaten by the Macbenachs or priests of Iximaya, the great city among the hills, about thirty moons ago, (previous to May, 1849)."

It has been asserted that Mr. Wheelwright, an American gentleman of the highest respectability, well known and much respected both in London and Liverpool as the originator of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, is (or was) well acquainted with the author of this very extraordinary pamphlet. And although it must be confessed, that if considered as a piece of mere invention, for in marvellous incident it is a formidable rival to the voyage and travels of one Lemuel Gulliver, or the life and adventures of the well known Mr. Robinson Crusoe,—yet the fact should not be forgotten, that "Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction."

G. W. anxiously looks for the opinions of the well-informed press upon this matter, which, with the exception of the *Sunday Times* of the 15th of February, have been silent about the "Pigmies" exhibiting in New York;—and about which, as G. W.'s "Special" observed last month—"there is NO MISTAKE."

THE BAWDRICK OR BALDROCK, (*Illustrated Correction.*)—Few people feel inclined to acknowledge an error, or to make a correction. See Willis's "Current Notes" for February last (p. 16), where Sir Walter Scott's remark is quoted, that "it is ill making holes in one's own stockings for the purpose of darning them again, darn we never so neatly." However, G. W. is always happy—not to feel himself in the wrong—but to correct any mistake which inadvertently he or his agents may have made. He has therefore no hesitation about printing the following communication.

"H. T. E. informs G. W. that the engraver of the sketch of the Bawdrick, which appeared in the last number of the "Current Notes" (p. 5), "has omitted one important reference, and a letter of reference, (which H. T. E. believes he sent).

"In fig. 2, letter B, all is right.

"But in fig. 1, letter B is wrong; it should have been by the side, and where that B is should have been an E, which was thus described:

"E. A piece of hard wood, placed between the staple and the end of the clapper, which is made steady to the clapper by D, the busk board, &c.

"As engraved, H. T. E. fears it will be a terrible puzzler to the uninitiated in Campanology, and even Campanologists will wonder at the confusion. The upper joint should have been *thus*, and the lower joint square (but G. W.'s artist has reversed the thing), for it is at B that the clapper swings.

"Still it is well to have got the thing shewn to the public, and H. T. E. thanks G. W., and supposes all blunders must be set down to his correspondent's fault of indistinct writing."

Strood, Rochester, 13th Feb. 1852.

SIR,—In reference to the letter of H. T. E. page 5 of your work, I beg to send you the following extracts from the Account Book of the Churchwardens of this Parish, now in my possession:—

H. WICKHAM.

"Ao. 1555.
Itm. payd For a horse hyde xxd.
For maykyng of ye bawdreck ijd."
"1556.
For whytt lether for ye bawdreck xijd.
For maykyng of iiij bawdrecks viijd."

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The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

Liverpool, 30th Jan. 1852.

Sir,—I have to complain that your Correspondent T. M. rushes into print so incautiously on the subject of his tobacco-pipe. From the accuracy of his quotation, he appears to have had the Society's volume before him, yet he has taken no trouble to arrive at the truth. Mr. Lamb's paper was read three months before the woodcut of the pipe in question appeared; but as the latter was of peculiar form, it was engraved, as well as one or two others that had not been exhibited. All of these were minutely referred to. Thus, in the Note respecting the Plates, p. iii. there is the following:—"No. "14 [on Plate IV.] is from 'Willis's Current Notes,' "for April, 1851; the stem is of bamboo, and the top of "the bowl of brass. It was found in taking down an old "inn at Fulham in 1836." From a mutilated copy I send you the actual leaf for the use of T. M.;* and have to express my sorrow that he does not possess either more patience or more civility.

A. Hume, D.C.L.
Corresponding Secretary.

* G. W. *has forwarded it to his Correspondent, and begs to thank the Rev. Dr. Hume for this correction of T. M.'s oversight, and the manner in which an acknowledgment has been made to "Willis's Current Notes," which it gratifies him to find considered worthy of the attention of* the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The late J. M. W. Turner, R.A.

G. W. has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of five communications respecting the Sketch of the late Mr. Turner, which appeared with J. T. A.'s *letter in the January number of* "Current Notes," (p. 1.) *Four of his correspondents are pleased with the Sketch, and one who signs himself,* D. R. *states that he knew Mr. Turner well, and considers it to be, "no caricature, but on the contrary, an excellent likeness."*

However, the following epistle, expresses a different opinion.

Yarmo. Feb. 2, 1852.

Sir,—How very vexing it is that the "rude sketch" favoured by your obliging correspondent, (J. T. A.) was not placed in the hands of some R. A. (before engraved), who was acquainted and well knew that celebrated painter. and from that ("rude sketch") and the knowledge he (R. A.) had of the late Turner, would have favoured us with a more characteristic portrait. Was he not more than four feet in stature? This represented ("Current Notes," January, 1852, p. 1), reminds us of a wooden punchinello more than any thing that ever breathed, and not at all *credible* to the "Current Notes." All such Notes are highly interesting if properly done.

In haste.

Yours faithfully,
W.

The Marquis of Worcester, (*Author of the "Century of Inventions"*).—R. C. particularly thanked for his communication.

Ancient Signet explained.

Southwick, near Oundle,
Jan. 30th, 1852.

Sir,—Your excellent little work, "Current Notes," is worthy of all praise and support; as affording to the Numismatist, the Paleologist, and the Archeologist, &c. the means not only of giving a written account of their various studies, but also of exhibiting facsimiles of the objects of their research. At the same time that I thank you for the insertion of my last (p. 3, Jan. 1852), allow me to present you with one of, I think, much greater interest to the Chronologist and Historian, taken from "Gesenii Monumenta Phœnicia, Pars 3, Tab. 11, fig. XL. bis,"

The letters at the top of the signet are *Ch sr b i;* and the reading is, "*The great king.*" At the bottom of the signet they are, *A ch m n;* and the reading is, "*Achemen,*" and with the Greek termination *Achæmenes.* On the right side they are *a n b*, Hebrew א נ ב, taken as numerical characters, *i.e.* 1000, 700, 2; making the date 1702. On the left, the figure like the Greek ♉, is the sign of Taurus, to denote the month when the sun entered into Taurus. The *dove and leaf* seem to refer to "*the dove and olive leaf,*" Gen. viii. 11.

Let me now refer your readers to Drummond's Origines, v. 1, p. 310:

"The Greeks fancied Achæmenes to have been the name of the progenitor of Cyrus; but *Achæmenes* is nothing else than a corruption of one of those pompous and impious titles, which were assumed by the kings of Iran, and of which the inscriptions explained by M. de Sacy afford many examples. *Achæmenes*, as I have shown elsewhere, signifies *Rex cœli* in ancient Persian."

So much for *guess-work*, which cannot be too much reprobated. I do not pretend to any skill in chronology, but the calculation appears to be so simple, that I will attempt it, taking the dates of our authorized version of the Bible.

Deluge . . .	2349 A.C.
Signet engraved .	1702 *from* the Deluge
Or . . .	647 A.C.
Cyrus begins to reign	537 A.C.

Therefore, from the beginning of the reign of Achæmenes to the same of Cyrus is 110 years.

From this remarkable signet we obtain the historical truth, that Achæmenes began his reign in the month Taurus, 1702, after the *Deluge*. I have found the Deluge taken as an epoch in various Cuneiform and Egyptian, &c. documents, that have not been explained to the public.

Yours truly,
T. R. Brown.

T. R. B.'s translation received, but must stand over for the present.

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ROBERT HOBLYN, *quere* RICHARD?

No. 59, Grey Street, Newcastle, Tyne,
January 28th, 1852.

SIR,—In your "Current Notes" for this month (p. 7), a correspondent, A. K., enquires about "Robert Hoblyn" and his Works. Presuming he has made a mistake in the name, and that he means "Richard" instead of "Robert," I send herewith a list of some of "Richard's" Works.

I remain, yours,
THOMAS GRAY.

Mr. Willis.

Richard D. Hoblyn, A.M., Oxon, author of "Medical Terms," "Scientific Terms," "Manuals of Natural Philosophy of Chemistry, and of the Steam Engine," First Books in Science," &c. &c.

ROBERT HOBLYN.

4, Birchin Lane,
February 7th, 1852.

SIR,—In answer to a letter in your "Price Current" for January 25th, (p. 7), addressed to you, and signed "A. K." I beg to inform your correspondent that "Robert Hoblyn," published the following works:—

"Bibliotheca Hoblyniana," 8vo. London, 1767.
"The First Book of the Georgics of Virgil, Lat. and Eng. with Translation in blank verse, and notes, 8vo. London, 1825."

It is worthy to notice that "M. A." is affixed to his name in the last named work.

I am not aware that he published any other works; but a perusal of the Catalogue of Printed Books in the British Museum would satisfactorily decide this point.

Perhaps your correspondent means "Richard Hoblyn," whose publications are very numerous.

Your obedient servant,
S. I. TUCKER.

LAVERS, *the Bookseller*.

Overseal, Ashby de la Zouch.

SIR,—I should be very much obliged to any of your correspondents who will give me information respecting Mr. Lavers, a bookseller in London, who flourished about the third quarter of the last century; especially any thing relating to his wife and descendants.

Very faithfully yours,
J. M. GRESLEY.

13th Feb. A.D. 1852.

TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.—Can any of your readers inform me if there are any Tradesmen's Tokens of Scotland, issued during the 17th century; and if not, can any cause be assigned for it. I have a very large collection of tokens of the 17th century, of England, Wales, and Ireland, but not one of Scotland, which is very singular, as the towns of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Sterling, Perth, &c. must have had as great need of a small currency, as many small villages in England, of which there are many specimens.

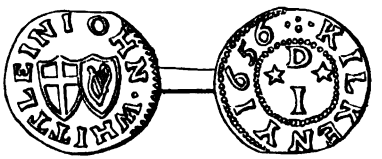
By far the most numerous of the English tokens belong to the Southern and Midland districts: of the city of Oxford alone I have 62 varieties. The Northern Counties are much fewer in number: of Cumberland I have only tokens of two towns, Carlisle and Cockermouth; of Northumberland, the town of Newcastle only; of Westmoreland, Appleby, Kendal, and Kirby Steven.

The ordinary value is the halfpenny for the Southern Counties, having usually the Arms of some Company of the City of London, and the initials of the issuer, his wife and family name, with the name, trade and business at full length. The great bulk of these tokens are of a monotonous character, with a few curious exceptions.

One of square shape, issued by Thomas Dedicot, in Bewdley, has the legend, "SQUARE DEALING." A copper token of Worcester, has a brass plug in the centre. A facetious Boniface of Leeds gives us the double-entendre, "BEWARE THE BEARE," with his sign of the Bear. To make the catch better, it should be known that in Yorkshire, BEER and BEAR, are pronounced alike. The device and motto of the Baron Bradwardine is consequently older than the time of the author of Waverley. Roger Dickinson, of Robin Hood's Bay, affects a heart-shaped token, on which are represented the popular heroes, Robin Hood and Little John: Little John is represented half the size of Robin Hood, instead of being considerably taller, not knowing he was so nick-named from his gigantic stature. There are other tokens of octagon and diamond shape.

The Welsh tokens are generally of very good execution: the halfpenny of Edward Lloyd, of Kidwelly, is very neat; a few of Carnarvon are small, and issued at one penny, of a similar character to those of Ireland, which I have next to mention.

The Irish tokens are of a different character to those of England and Wales, being generally small, issued at one penny, and the issuer styling himself Marchant. The penny token of John Whittle, of Kilkenny, 1656, has the Arms of the Commonwealth on it; the only instance that I know of: the King's Arms are plentiful enough.



Besides the list of towns given by Lindsay in his "View of the Coinage of Ireland, 1839," I can add from my collection, Ballinasloe, Downpatrick, Loughrea, Mount-Mellick, Navan and Roscommon, besides many varieties of the towns Mr. Lindsay has published.

The circulation of these tokens was forbidden under severe penalties in 1673, but in Ireland they were continued partially to near the close of the 18th century, when another general issue of tokens throughout Great Britain was allowed by Government, owing to the great scarcity of small money. The tokens of this period are of an entirely different size and character to those of the preceding century.

Leeds, Feb. 1852. WM. BOYNE.

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LITHOGRAPHY.—Some years ago, letters and papers of William Combe, the well known author of "Dr. Syntax," came into my possession, and with them a paper, of which the following is a copy:—

"*I have been told of one*
Who being ask'd for bread,
In its stead
Returned a stone.

But here we manage better,
The Stone we ask
To do its task,
And it returns us every letter.
Wm. Combe, January 23, 1817."

"*This is the first impression of Ackermann's Lithographic press.*"

Combe was so intimately connected with Ackermann's establishment, that there can be no doubt of the fact that the paper I have, was truly the very *first* impression in Lithography in England. The poetic scrap was no doubt Combe's own, and the facsimile shews that it was in Combe's writing.

ROBT. COLE.

52, Upper Norton Street.

STERNE'S AUTOGRAPH.—As mentioned by A. C.K. in "Current Notes" for January, p. 2, as occurring *on the title page** of his "Tristram Shandy," is not I believe often met with, but I doubt much its having been written for the gratification of particular friends, to whom copies of the work were presented.

I have two (the title pages only) in my possession.

ROBERT COLE.

52, Upper Norton Street.

* G. W.'s respected Correspondent A. C. K. said "*at the head of the first chapter in some or one of the volumes*" of a few of the first editions.

MIDDLE AGES.—MEDIÆVAL.

THESE terms are now so frequently used in reference to periods and works of art, that it would be useful to your readers if some competent person would define precisely what period is comprehended in the term *mediæval.* In a recent Exhibition many works of a comparatively late date were classed as mediæval. Mr. James, speaking of *Charlemagne*, says—"the precise birth-place of the greatest man of the middle ages is unknown." Here he refers to the year 742. Some of the correspondents will, perhaps, through your "Notes Current," define the limits of this term. S. E.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

SIR,—With regard to the inquiry made in your "Current Notes" for December, p. 93, with respect to Archæological publications, I wish to direct your Correspondent to a publication issued by the Architectural Societies for Northampton, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Bedfordshire, consisting of the Reports and Papers read before those Societies in the year 1850. The second part, comprising the Transactions for the Year 1851, is now in the press, and will shortly be published. These two parts will form one handsome octavo volume, printed more especially for the use of the Members of the above Societies, but a few copies are reserved for general sale, for which Mr. Masters is the agent. Thinking that your Correspondent might be glad to hear of the existence of this volume, I thought it as well to trouble you with this note.

I remain, yours faithfully,
T. PYNDAR LOWE.

Saltfletby, Louth, Jan. 29.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—With reference to the January Number of "Current Notes," p. 2, and the reply to an inquiry (from J. P., Philadelphia, 18th November) respecting the Author of "Father Tom and the Pope, or a Night at the Vatican,"—a paper which appeared in Blackwood some years ago, W. C. J. A. has had the goodness to inform G. W. that the reply given by F. M. is not quite correct.

"The writer of that paper was Mr. Samuel Ferguson, then and still a Member of the Irish Bar, going the North-East Circuit, and a native of Belfast. Mr. Ferguson is also the author of some spirited stanzas, published in the same Magazine, entitled, "The Forging of the Anchor,' and is very favourably known as the author of some interesting papers in 'Blackwood,' and in the Antiquarian department of the 'Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy,' of which learned body he has been for several years a member."

"Mr. F." adds W. C. J. A. "has, *I believe*, but I am not quite sure, written in the 'Dublin University Magazine.'"

THE SHADOOF.—I beg to inform W. G. with reference to his observations in your "Current Notes" for December last, that the Shadoof as engraved by you at p. 96 is in common use all over the State of New York in places where wells are obliged to be sunk, the machine being far less costly than a pump, and such as anybody can construct.

We have abundance of rivers and streams, so many indeed, that I have never seen a windmill in America.

YOUR N. Y. ES-PECIAL REPORTER.

THOMAS HOOD.—How lamentable is it to observe, from the research of A. K. in Willis's "Current Notes" for December (p. 90), and for which I sincerely thank his Correspondent, that so eminent a man as Thomas Hood should so recently have departed from among us without record of his death.

His Song of the Shirt alone, written with so humane a purpose, surely demanded some notice. Are you aware that the Song of the Shirt suggested the American Sewing Machine, exhibited in the World's Fair, for the purpose of relieving poor females from the nightly drudgery of "stitch—stitch—stitch?" W. S.

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American Testimonial to Mrs. Cowden Clarke.

Mr. Willis,—Some of your correspondents appear mighty fond of Old Oaken Chairs, and I rather think if they were to visit the good old City of Aberdeen, and go into the "Auld Kirk," they will see an Oak Chair somewhat older than the engraved specimens in your "Current Notes," and on a scroll over it, they will see written

"The Chaire of Veritie."

But what do you say to the New Rosewood Shaksperian Chair, sent from New York as a complimentary testimonial to an amiable lady living at Bayswater, the inscription on which exquisite piece of work is as follows:

TO
MRS. MARY COWDEN CLARKE
THIS CHAIR IS PRESENTED
BY A FEW LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF AMERICA
AS A TRIBUTE OF GRATITUDE, FOR THE UNEQUALLED
INDUSTRY
WHICH GAVE THE READERS OF ENGLISH
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
HER CONCORDANCE TO SHAKSPERE.

G. W. *begs to add, that it is unnecessary for him to engrave the beautiful drawing forwarded to him of this Chair, as he perceives an engraving has already appeared in the Lady's Newspaper for the 24th January, and he has returned the drawing as requested.*

Katy-Did.—G. W.'s *New York Special Reporter writes him as follows, in reference to the paragraph, p. 90 of "Current Notes" for December last.*

Sir,—Please inform "*An Entomologist*" that it will afford your Special Reporter much pleasure to send him a live specimen of the Katy-Did next *fall*. We have no *Autumn* in America! It is then they begin to sing, or rather to say: at present they are, to use the words of Davie Gellatley, "A' dead an' gane—a' dead an' gane." I first heard them one evening in August among the elms on the battery, and so loud was the noise, I fancied it was made by porters landing bars of iron on the adjoining quays.

The jingle of the song your Entomological correspondent enquires after was something like this; but I will send him a copy when I can procure one.

"The dear little Katy-did sat on a tree,
And surly and sulky and savage was he,
His supper was stolen away by a bee,
But he thought his own deary had hidd'n it,
And while he kept calling 'twas you, Katy-did,
She merrily cried—'Katy-did-n't,'
[*Chorus of Boys and Girls.*]
Katy-did—Katy-did n't—Katy-did—Katy-did n't."

The moral of the song is, that a lady will always have the last word, be she insect or woman.

Mr. Willis.

Scraps from the United States.

The space at G. W.'s command will only permit him to notice generally, and most gratefully to acknowledge, the number, variety, and interest of C. F. D.'s communications, and sincerely to thank him for the kind manner in which they have been forwarded.

1. The existence of Hebrew relics among the Pottawatomie Indians is extremely curious. That procured by Dr. Lykins is described as consisting of

"Four small rolls or strips of parchment, closely packed in the small compartments of a little box or locket, of about an inch cubical content. On these parchments are written, in a style of unsurpassed excellence, and far more beautiful than print, portions of the Pentateuch, to be worn as frontlets, and intended as stimulants to the memory and moral sense."

2. A notice of Professor Stuart's death has been recorded in G. W.'s Literary and Scientific Obituary.

"He published at least twenty-four volumes, and in addition to them many single sermons and newspaper essays, and contributed more than two thousand octavo pages to American periodicals. His commentaries are those on the Hebrews, Romans, Revelation, Daniel, Ecclesiastes, and the Proverbs. He printed his first Hebrew Grammar without points, and *set up about half the paradigms of verbs with his own hands.*—This grammar went through three editions, each one being more full than the preceding."

3. The intelligence of the Spanish Press is highly amusing.

4. The charge made against the Editor of the Oxford Edition of Milton requires proof or explanation.

"Mr. Whittier states in the National Era, that the carefully prepared Oxford edition of Milton's Works, contains a poem by Elizabeth Lloyd, of Philadelphia, purporting to have been written by the poet in his old age and blindness, and which is so well executed, as to have deceived the English editor of his works. This poem is now going the rounds of the American press, as the production of Milton."

5. The appearance of the fifth and sixth volumes of Lord Mahon's History of England has thus brought forth the indignation of the editor of the Boston (U. S.) "Transcript."

"They commence at the year 1763, and close with the year 1779, and comprise, of course, as the principal theme, the American Revolution—the rise and progress of the War of Independence. 'One point in the American War,' says the Spectator, 'Lord Mahon brings out quietly and impressively—the personal falsehood of Franklin, and often the brutality of the Americans at large.' Here will be a chance for our American reviewers and critics. 'The personal falsehood of Franklin!' It will take the affidavit of more than one Lord to make that credible."

6. The old American bookseller, whose career was so graphically described by Dr. Francis at the celebration of the hundred and forty-sixth anniversary of Franklin's birth-day, by the New York Typographical Society, was the father of the present Editor of the Literary World, an American periodical, extremely well conducted, and of considerable circulation.

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"There are many booksellers and publishers," observed Dr. Francis, "whose character and influence might justly command detailed account. Spence himself would find among them anecdotes of consideration in the world of letters. I must, however, write within circumscribed limits. The first in immediate recollection is Evert Duyckinck. He was a middle-aged man when I was a boy occasionally at his store, an ample and old-fashioned edifice, at the corner of Pearl Street and Old Slip. He was grave in his demeanor, and somewhat taciturn; of great simplicity in dress, accommodating and courteous. He must have been rich in literary occurrences. He for a long while occupied this excellent stand for business, and was quite extensively engaged as a publisher and seller. He was a sort of Mr. Newbury, so precious to juvenile memory in the olden times. He largely dealt with that order of books, for elementary instruction, which were popular abroad, just about the close of our revolutionary war and the adoption of our Constitution, Old Dyche and his pupil Dilworth, Perry, and Sheridan. As education and literature advanced, he brought forward, by reprints, Johnson and Chesterfield, and Vicesimus Knox, and a host of others. His store was the nucleus of the Connecticut teachers' intellectual products, and Barlow and Webster, and Morse and Riggs, found him a patron of their works in poetry and school books. Bunyan, and Young, and Watts, Doddridge and Baxter, must have been issued by his enterprise in innumerable thousands throughout the whole thirteen States; and the old English Primer, now improved into the American Primer, with its captivating emendations, as

The royal oak, it was the tree
That saved his Royal Majesty;

improved by the more simple diction,

Oak 's not as good
As hickory wood;

and the lines,

Whales in the sea
God's voice obey;

now modified, without loss of its poetic fire,

Great deeds were done—
By Washington—

led captivity captive, and were circulated without limits for the better diffusion of knowledge and patriotism throughout the land. As our city grew apace, and both instructors and their functions enlarged, he engaged in the Latin Classics. Having a little Latin about me, it became my duty to set up at the printing-office of Lewis Nicols, Duyckinck's reprint, De Bello Gallico. The edition was edited by a Mr. Rudd. He was the first editor I ever saw; I looked at him with school-boy admiration when I took him the proofs. What alterations or improvements he ever made in the text of Oudendorp, I never ascertained. This, however, must have been among the beginnings of that American practice, still so common among us, of deeming it necessary that the reprints of even the most important works from abroad should have, for better circulation, some name as editor inserted on the title-page. Mr. Duyckinck was gifted with great business talents, and estimated as a man of great punctuality and rigid integrity in fiscal matters. He was the first who had the entire Bible, in 12mo. preserved—set up in forms—the better to supply, at all times, his patrons. This was before stereotype plates were adopted. He gave to the Harpers the first job of printing they ever executed—whether 'Tom Thumb' or 'Wesley's Primitive Physic,' I know not. The acorn has become the pride of the forest—the Cliff Street Tree, whose roots and branches now ramify over the land. Duyckinck faithfully carried out the proverbs of Franklin, and the sayings of Noah Webster's Prompter. He was by birth and by action a genuine Knickerbocker."

Seal of Whitgift's Hospital at Croydon.

At p. 77 of your "Current Notes" for October last, there is an engraved representation of the Corporate Seal of Dulwich College; as a companion to it, I have procured a drawing of the Seal of Archbishop Whitgift's Hospital at Croydon, which was founded towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth, by that benevolent but superstitious prelate, who appears to have been a devout believer in the Black Art, as among the crimes enumerated to be punished by expulsion are "obstinate heresye, sorcerye, and any kind of charming or witchcrafte."

There were some interesting relics preserved in this establishment, particularly three wooden goblets or drinking vessels, the largest of which could hold about three pints, and bore the following inscription:

"What, Sirrah! hold thy peace,
Thirst satisfied—cease."

But I am told they have disappeared—no one can tell how or when exactly. I mention the circumstance, as there was a singular legend connected with this inscription, which I once heard, but do not now remember the particulars—perhaps some of your correspondents may.

C. R.

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Monumental Brasses.

St. Margaret, Rochester,
Feb. 11th, 1852.

Sir,—Allow me to correct a slight error in the communication of your correspondent G. E. S. contained in your "Current Notes" for December last, p. 92. The name of the gentleman who was mainly instrumental in restoring the *Brass* with the Effigy of a former Vicar of this Parish, Thomas Codd, was the late *Mr. W. F. Harrison*, not *Hanson*, as printed.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
A Subscriber and Constant Reader.

Mr. Willis.

Cavendish's Life of Wolsey.

Sir,—In an anonymous treatise, entitled, "Who wrote Cavendish's Life of Wolsey?" London, 1814; (usually attributed to the Rev. Joseph Hunter), the writer considers the author to be a George Cavendish, a branch of the Devonshire family. But in the valuable collection of my friend Mr. W. S. Fitch, of this town, there is a well-preserved MS. copy of "The Life and Death of Cardinal Wolsey," by Th. Gainsford. This interesting MS. is a folio volume of 166 pages. It embraces all that is contained in Cavendish's "Life of Wolsey," with a considerable deal of extra matter. I refer to Lowndes and find that this Gainsford was the author of a Life of Perkin Warbeck, and other works. He printed nothing, it seems, after 1619.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
A Subscriber.

Ipswich, Feb. 6, 1852.

"Robbed Between Sun and Sun."

Jan. 28, 1852.

Sir,—Perhaps the query of "Y. S. N." concerning the expression of

"Robbed between Sun and Sun,"

(p. 6, of your "Current Notes,") may be derived from the definition of Burglary, in Blackstone's Commentaries, book 4, Public Wrongs, section 2. "The *Time* must be "by Night, and not by Day, for in the Day-time there "is no Burglary. . . . Anciently the Day was accounted "to begin only at Sun-rising, and to end immediately "upon Sunset."

Therefore, if I was robbed last night, the Burglary was committed between the *Sun*-set of yesterday, and the *Sun*-rise of to-day.

Yours,
Mervinensis.

Mr. Willis.

"Cromwell between the Pillars."

Sir,—I extract the following out of the copy I got from you of "Smeeton's Reprints," which answer one of the queries put by your correspondent in last month's "Current Notes," p. 7, concerning the print of Cromwell.

"The following is a History of this celebrated Print:—

"Faithorne, with his master, Robert Peake, engaged in the King's service, and were both taken prisoners at Basing House, from whence Faithorne was brought to London, and confined in Aldersgate; here resuming his occupation, he produced the exquisite Portrait of the Protector, (known as Cromwell between the Pillars), which pleased the parties then in power so much, that shortly after, it occasioned his being set at liberty, and he retired to France. Copies of the original print have been known to sell as high as 40 pounds!

"Mr. Caulfield in his Chalcographiana, says, Mr. Bull the celebrated Collector, shewed him the original drawing in red chalk from which Faithorne engraved the print; from whom he also learned the face was afterwards altered to William III."

"Ogils."

Print of Oliver Cromwell.

Sir,—I have a beautiful impression of the Print alluded to by a "Young Print and Portrait Collector," ("Current Notes" for January, p. 7), with this superscription: "Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, and the Territories thereunto belonging. Engraved by Chas. Turner, from the celebrated print by W. Faithorne." Below the figure of the Protector, on a small ornamental tablet, is "The Emblem of England's distractions, and also of her attained and further expected Freedom and Happiness;" which sufficiently explains the extraordinary allegorical figures which crowd the print.

Yours,
S. S.

Autographic Biography.

Sir,—Perhaps some of the readers of your "Notes," can inform me who is the "Kendall" who signs a document, a fragment only of which I possess, and that without date, which also bears the signatures "Orford," "J. Houblon," "G. Wharton," "P. Rich," and another I cannot decypher.

Yours,
S. S.

Autographic Biography.—The Marquis de Spinola, mentioned by Ellen F., in "Current Notes" for January, p. 6, was Ambassador or Minister from Genoa to France. He afterwards came to England on a mission from his Government. I have many of his letters, in some of which he complains of Lord Nelson's proceedings in the Mediterranean.

R. C.

I think p. 8 of your January "Notes," if referred to by your fair Correspondent Ellen F., may answer her "*Hue and Cry*" after John Bruce, on the 20th May, 1829.

C. P. J.

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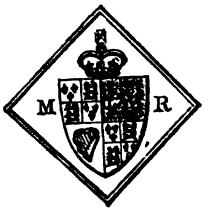
Ring of Mary Queen of Scots.

Your Correspondent T. K.'s notice of Queen Elizabeth's ring, said to have been given to the Earl of Essex, ("Current Notes," for December last, p. 95), reminds me of another ring, that of Mary Queen of Scots, for using which she was censured on her Murder-trial, in consequence of its having the Arms of England impaled with those of Scotland. I possess a *facsimile* of that signet ring, procured from a seal engraved in Edinburgh. I should feel particularly obliged if any of your Antiquarian friends can inform me, where the original now is. I was told that it was in the British Museum, and had inquiry made there, but to no purpose. I rather think paste facsimiles may be had at Mr. Wilson's, formerly Tassie's, in Leicester Square. Mine is an engraving on Amethyst, and I shall seal this letter with it.



Respectfully yours,
R. B.

A Travelling Name.—The anecdote told by your Correspondent "J." in the last number of your "Current Notes," p. 7, is somewhat differently related in the Memoir of Mr. James Smith, prefixed to his "Comic Miscellanies," where it is stated: "The following incident occurred to James Smith in a Brighton coach. An old lady struck with his extraordinary familiarity with things and people, at length burst forth, 'And pray, Sir, you who seem to know every body—pray may I ask who you are?' 'James Smith, Madam.' This evidently conveying nothing to her mind, a fellow passenger added, 'One of the authors of the *Rejected Addresses*.' The old lady stared at them by turns, and then quietly said, 'I never heard of the Gentleman or the book before.'"

T. C. C.

Sale of Rare Books.—Some curious books of an interesting character, collected by the son of Simon Lord Lovat, who, it will be remembered, was executed for treasonable practices, have recently been sold by Auction by Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson, of Wellington Street. The Collection contained specimens from the presses of Pynson, Wynkyn de Worde and Caxton; also some rare and early works relating to America, and on the subject of English Theology during the time of the Elizabethan Age, and some curious works on Machinery and the Occult Sciences. Among them may be specially named, "The Book of the Ordre of Chyvalry or Knyghthode," (lot 244), said to be one of the rarest productions of the press of Caxton; one of three copies, (two of which being in the British Museum), and considered to be one of the most interesting volumes which we owe to the perseverance of Caxton as a translator, and of great beauty as an example of his typographic skill. It unfortunately wanted two leaves, but produced £55. 10*s*. The next in importance (lot 585) was a copy of the works of Ben Jonson, the edition of 1640, having belonged to the Somerset family, and of much interest from the circumstance of its containing on the inside of the cover an unpublished Poem of twenty-six lines, of a complimentary character, on the Nuptials of Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, entirely in the autograph of Ben Jonson, and concluding with the following beautiful stanza:—

> "And when your yeares rise more than would be told,
> Yet neyther of you seeme to th' other old.
> That all yt view you then, and late may say,
> Sure this glad payre were maried but this day."
>
> Ben Jonson.

The flattering wishes of the great Bard were however not realized in the future history of the unhappy pair. It produced £14, and has found a resting-place in the British Museum.

To Correspondents.

H. M.'s communication has been forwarded to the periodical for which it appears to have been intended.

Mediæval Mummies. "*A Bookworm*," who dates from the "British Museum," in type, but too long to appear this month.

Δ. Thanked.

Tobacco. S. T. "Chester," received, and in type. The copy of the collected edition of "Current Notes" sent as desired.

A. Oak House, in type, but must stand over until next month.

Antonine's Itinerary and Etymons, &c. received after G. W.'s "Current Notes" had been made up for press.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Clements, William. Newspaper Proprietor (*Morning Chronicle, Observer, Bell's Life in London*). 24th January.

Crabb, George, (M.A.) Law, Language, and History. 16, Oxford Place, New Road, Hammersmith. 4th December. 1851. Aged 83.

Davenport, Richard Alfred. History, Biography, Criticism, Poetry, &c. Brunswick Cottage, Park Street, Camberwell. 25th January. Aged 72.

Grimshaw, William. School Histories, American Chesterfield, Ladies' Lexicon. Philadelphia. 8th January.

Holcroft, Thomas. Periodical Writer, formerly Secretary Asiatic Society. 37, Woburn Place. 6th Feb.

Prout, Samuel. Water Colour Painter. 10th February. Aged 68.

Rodwell, George Herbert. Musical Composer, Dramatist and Novelist. Upper Ebury Street, Pimlico. 22nd January.

Rodwell (John). Publisher (*Rodwell and Martin, Bond Street*) of Batty's Views, &c. January 3rd. Aged 71.

Stuart (Professor), Moses. Biblical Scholar, Author of Hebrew Grammar, &c. Andover, U.S. 4th January. Aged 71.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XV.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [MARCH, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

MEDIÆVAL MUMMIES.

British Museum, Jan. 1852.

SIR,—The late discovery of the remains of a human body in a complete state of preservation, in St. Stephen's Chapel, has induced me to send you a brief notice of several similar occurrences recorded by our early chroniclers and historians. Bede relates that eleven years after the death of St. Cuthbert, bishop of Lindisfarne, the monks took up his body, expecting to see it reduced to ashes, but found, "all the body whole, as if it had been alive, and the joints pliable more like one asleep than a dead person; besides all the vestments the body had on were wonderful for their freshness and glossness." We learn from William of Malmesbury that the body was again found incorrupt 415 years afterwards at Durham, and publicly shewn. Lingard gives an interesting account of the event, taken "from a memoir written at the time by an eye-witness," in all probability Simeon, the Durham historian. From this narrative it appears that when the monks removed the masonry of the tomb, "they beheld a large and ponderous chest, which had been entirely covered with leather, and strongly secured with nails and plates of iron. To separate the top from the sides required their utmost exertion, and within it they discovered a second chest, of dimensions more proportionate to the human body. It was of black oak, carved with figures of animals and flowers, and wrapped in a coarse linen cloth, which had previously been dipped in melted wax, to exclude the air and damp." By the direction of Turgot, the prior, "they conveyed the smaller chest from behind the altar to a more convenient place, in the middle of the choir, unrolled the cloth, and with trembling hands forced open the lid. Instead of the remains of the Saint, they found a copy of the Gospels lying on a second lid, which had not been fastened with nails, but rested on three transverse bars of wood. By the help of two iron rings, fixed at the extremities, it was easily removed, and disclosed the body apparently entire, lying on its right side, on a pallet of silk. At the sight they gazed on each other in silent astonishment, and then retiring a few paces, fell prostrate on the floor, and repeated, in a low tone, the seven penitential psalms. After this preparation, they approached the coffin, and three of them, by order of the prior, placing their hands under the head, the feet, and the middle of the body, raised it up, and laid it on a carpet spread on the floor. It was found to have been wrapped in a cerecloth of linen. Over this appeared the usual episcopal vestments, the amice, alb, stole, fanon tunic and dalmatic;—the chasuble alone was wanting, which had been removed at the former translation in 689. On the forehead lay a thin plate of gold, or metal gilt, thickly encrusted with small stones; and a mitre covered the head, round which had been wound a napkin of purple colour. A cerecloth of the finest linen adhered so closely to the face, that no part of it could be loosened, but between the neck and the shoulders the skin was exposed to the sight and touch. The arms could be moved with ease; the hands were joined over the lower part of the chest, and the fingers, which were still flexible, pointed upwards. With the body were found a chalice, patine, a portable altar, a burse to hold the linen for the altar, and an ivory comb, with scissors of silver." When the shrine of St. Cuthbert was plundered and demolished by order of that sacrilegious scoundrel King Harry the Eighth, the body was still found entire, as Harpsfield testifies.

Audry, a daughter of Annas, King of the East Angles, and abbess of Ely Monastery, died A.D. 679, and was buried in a wooden coffin. Sixteen years afterwards her sister caused her body to be exhumed. It was found "free from corruption, and all the linen cloths in which the body had been wrapped appeared entire, and as fresh as if they had been that very day wrapped about her limbs." Such are the words of the physician who attended her in her last illness, and who saw the occurrence. (Bede, B. 4. c. 19).

Wereburge, a daughter of Wulfere, king of Mercia, died about the close of the seventh century. Her body, according to her own desire, was interred at Hanbury. Nine years afterwards, in 708, it was taken up in presence of King Cöelred, his Council, and many bishops, and being found entire and incorrupt, was laid in a costly shrine. In 875 her body was still entire; when, for fear of the Danish pirates, it was removed to Chester, and soon after its translation, fell into decay.

St. Elphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, was barbarously murdered by the Danes in 1012, and buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. Twelve years after his martyrdom,

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his body was found entire, and solemnly translated to Canterbury. The King and queen, and an incredible multitude of persons following the procession from London. A long narrative of the event is amongst the Harleian MSS.

When King Edmund was cruelly slain by the Danes in 870, his head was carried by the infidels into a wood, and hidden into a bushe of briers, but being afterwards discovered, it was deposited with the mortal remains at Bury, which were soon afterwards conveyed to Bury St. Edmunds, and there honourably interred. Fifty-seven years subject to, when his body was taken up by order of the good Bishop of London: in which year, says the author of Britannia Sancta, "his body, to the admiration of all, was not only found entire, and without any memoir of corruption, much more like to one living in a sweet sleep than one dead, but also his wounds were found all closed up, and his head united to the rest of his body, only a slender mark remaining like a red thread round the neck, resembling their former separation."

Yours, truly,

A. Bookwhim.

Idol of the Isle of Man.

Southwark, near Oundle,
Feb. 27th, 1852.

Sir,—The accompanying woodcut, taken from Gesenii Monumenta Phoenicia, Tab. 28, fig. 3a, has induced me to send you a description of the remaining figures of the previous fragment, and the history written underneath them.

The upper part of the stone contained, *probably*, the infant Jesus and his mother Mary. Immediately beneath her feet is the figure here described; and below it is an ox at his manger; and underneath the feet of the ox, an ancient writing, of which the following is the meaning.

"The illuminated star, stella Virginis, of Virgo led the Magi slowly to the inn filled within, and in the outer-yard, with crowds of people. Arriving at the mean cattle-stance, the Magi were." The names of the *three* chiefs of the Magi in the place of the erasures? From a Mikateh inscription I get the name of one of them, viz. "Nathan Hari, the Grandfather."

Now what can the three legs, with the man's head in the middle denote, but the three *chiefs* of the Magi? And now is it that the people of Mona adopted it as *their* peculiar coat of arms, if *a portion* of that sect did not establish themselves, after the nativity, in the isle of Mona? The passage in Matt. ii. 12, does not militate against the idea.

Let us now take that most valuable auxiliary, Etymology, in order that we may further elucidate the subject.

Mannin, the Isle of Man, Mona, or Mona, may be thus divided, Man-a-in. Person, mana, a sect of the Magi. Sanscrit, mana, to investigate, seek or desire knowledge, to give knowledge, to respect, reverence, worship. A, Saxon, mane-an, *Man*, mana, manage, manane, manegan, monere, to teach, instruct, &c. Gaelic, man-ach, a mona.

And, lastly, as it is not despise tradition, however absurd it may at first sight appear.

Among a few legends, I have been told one, probably imperfectly, in a boy, viz. "A man was thrown from the top of a mountain in Mona, and was afterwards, sometimes seen as a sheep in the plain below, sometimes as a goat." Will any person of *Mona* say even do me the favour of giving the *complete legend*; with any other legend respecting the peopling of their island? It may throw more light on the *peculiar* occupation of the Magi.

Yours truly,

T. R. Bavers.

G. W. fears, with regret, that the "Pecus" Arcat, to whom his learned Correspondent's sketch was forwarded to copy, has been more humorous than correct in its transfer.

Daniel O'Rourke.

There is a sort of mystery attached to this legend or story, as to the authorship of it, that requires some clearing up.

The first time I read it was in T. C. Croker's "Fairy Legends," which appeared in 1825, 3 vols. small 8vo.; but what the editor or writer calls a compressed edition, forms a volume of "Murray's Family Library," and was published in 1834. At page 134 of this latter edition the story commences, as if narrated by Daniel himself, and the writer says, "I knew the man well,—an old man was he at the time *he told me the story*, and it was on the 25th of June, 1813, that *I heard it from his own lips*."

All this seems very circumstantial, but it is somewhat singular that this same story, with very slight variation, is to be found in the 18th volume of Dr. Anderson's "Bee," for January, 1794, p. 338, the party communicating it, saying, "The inclosed is genuine, and I honour the *lady* who had the merit of putting it in writing."

There is also some account of its previous publication, communicated in the 34th volume of the "Dublin University Magazine," p. 202, but not having the volume at hand, I do not recollect the particulars, my chief object being to refer to Prior's "Memoir of the Life of Burke," third edition, 1839, at p. 100 of which we are distinctly told that Mr. Doyle, a surgeon, of Dublin, was the *author* of Daniel O'Rourke's Dream.

Now it is right that the real author should not be deprived of the merit of a story, which has even been translated into French, and published in the "Magasin Pittoresque" for 1843, with two humorous wood cuts.

Oak House. A.

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TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.

Dublin, March 5th, 1852.

SIR,—I was much pleased with the observations which appeared in the last number of your Current Notes, (p. 11) by your intelligent Correspondent, Mr. Boyne of Leeds, respecting the tokens issued by tradesmen in the seventeenth century. But as he states that the only instance with which he is acquainted of one bearing the Arms of the Commonwealth is that which you have engraved to illustrate his paper, it is evident that Mr. Boyne cannot have seen Dr. Aquilla Smith's Catalogue of the Tradesmen's Tokens current in Ireland between the years 1637 and 1679 which was printed in 1849 in the 2nd part of the 4th volume (8vo.) of the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, for on the very same page in which John Whittle's issue is enumerated, a token for the County of Kerry issued by T. S. is mentioned as bearing "*The Commonwealth Arms.*" From my own collection I can give another instance, inscribed on both sides A. CORKE. FARTHING.

The list of Irish Tokens formed by Lindsay in 1839 amounts to only 195; while that published ten years afterwards by Dr. Smith extends to 552;—and I would respectfully call Mr. Boyne's attention to it.

Your very humble servant,

K. L.

Southwick, near Oundle,
Feb. 27th, 1852.

SIR,—Finding by Mr. Boyne's communication in your Current Notes, that Tradesmen's Tokens are worth collecting, I beg to send for your acceptance five dug up in my own gardens. You may make what use you please of them.

Yours truly,

T. R. BROWN.

IOHN. EATON. OUNDLE (*dug up in my garden at Southwick by myself.*)

IAMES MEAD, 1667 (an Angel) IN TENTARDEN. HIS HALFPENY.

IOHN COVITER (Coat of Arms) GROCER. IN. WYE, 1662, And two German Counters.

Dug up in my garden at Woodchurch, near Tenterden, Kent, by myself.

G. W. *sincerely thanks his Correspondent, and with his permission will consider these tokens at Mr. Boyne's service should he wish for them.*

SIR,—Mr. William Boyne, in your "Current Notes" for February, asks any of your readers to inform him if there were any Tradesmen's Tokens of Scotland issued during the seventeenth century. I find in a small collection of Tokens I possess, an Edinburgh and Glasgow halfpenny, dates 1791 and 1793, proving there were some during the eighteenth century, though I have never met with any of an earlier date.

Yours, &c.

March 12, 1852. M. A. M.

THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—T. M. considers the Rev. Dr. Hume's "attack" upon him ("Current Notes," for February, p. 10) to be "most unfair and uncalled for." He, however, admits the accuracy of Dr. Hume's statement, and withdraws his charge of the unacknowledged appropriation of his communication, although he questions the Rev. Gentleman's taste or temper in accusing him of want of patience or civility. "My copy," writes T. M. "does not contain the pages which were forwarded to you by Dr. Hume, and you have sent on to me. How, therefore, could I overlook pages which do not exist in my copy? Now, suppose no such pipe ever existed, but in the fumes of my brain (for I sometimes have strange fancies), and that I, in a hoaxing humour, transferred it to paper, and transmitted it to you. I say, again, suppose that no such inn ever existed at Fulham as the Golden Lion—would not I have an everlasting laugh at the learned Doctor Hume, and the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, and "Willis's Current Notes?" And would it not make as good a story as Bishop Heber's, or James Smith's hoaxes upon the venerable 'Gentleman's Magazine,' or Dr. Maginn's Correspondence with the trusty 'Times;' or Hook's political information to the 'Morning Post;' or the recent Roman Bridge affair, and Lord Goring's cobbler's bill, about his corns, in the York papers? Look to this, Mr. Willis; and don't encourage men to try and defend themselves at the expense of your Correspondent." T. M.

TOBACCO.—The charge made against the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, by your correspondent T. M. in your "Current Notes" for January (p. 5), induced me to refer to the former numbers, of which, as I do not possess a complete set, I will thank you to forward me a copy of the Collected Edition you have announced. But, as by looking over the numbers which I have, I find that T. M. (see "Current Notes" for Feb. 1851, p. 13), is curious upon the subject of smoking and tobacco, I send you the following extract from an old miscellaneous manuscript book which came into my possession a few years since at Gloucester, and has the dates 1699 and 1703, with the names Bubb or Butt and Richard Smith in it—but part of which is written in a much earlier hand.

"I was tempted to smoke no tobac
And to smoke.
"When the (HOLY) *Angel* (SPIRIT) *torn'd I*
Discorst on to the other
I told him that I
Did think not to smoke no more
Tobacko nor drink no more Alle
And I have. I hope the Lord
Will forgive me, as he told the
Spirit blind me, and ever since
I have been tempted to smoke and
Not to smok. The Angel Spirit
Is you when I do smok no tobac
But when I do he comes to me
Again and I am tempted to smok."

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What an extraordinary record is this of a mental struggle to overcome the cravings for Tobacco and Ale.

Chester, February 4th. S. T.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHEST PRICE EVER PAID FOR A VOLUME?—In the course of my reading lately on Bibliography, I observe that at the sale of the Duke of Roxburgh's Library in May, 1812, the first edition of the Decamerone of Boccaccio produced the enormous sum of £2260. In the Catalogue the work is entitled—

"Boccaccio il Decamerone. Fol. M. G. Ediz. Prim. Venet. Valdarfer, 1471."

It was bought by the Duke of Marlborough, and again sold by public auction from his Library, by Mr. Evans, Pall Mall, in June, 1819, for the large price of £918. 15*s*. In that Catalogue it is entitled—

"Boccaccio il Decamerone, (Venezia), per Christoful Valdarfer di Ratispona, MCCCCLXXI."

At this time it was purchased by Mr. Longman, apparently for Lord Spencer, in whose library it is said at present to be. A note to the above Catalogue mentions that, "notwithstanding the publicity of the extraordinary sum which this book produced at the Roxburgh Sale, all researches throughout Europe to procure another copy have proved entirely fruitless. This volume still continues to be the only known perfect copy of this edition, and is, in all probability, the only copy which will ever be offered for public sale. Its unparalleled rarity, however, is not its only recommendation, as it contains many important readings which have not been followed in any subsequent edition."

If any of your learned correspondents could give us additional information as to this rare and apparently valuable volume, it would be doubtless interesting to Bibliographers. Has any volume ever brought a higher price, or any work even in a series of volumes?

It is most probable that the other copies of this Edition have fallen under the ban of the Pope.

W. B. M.

JAMES SMITH. The mention of this gentleman by your Correspondent J. in your "Current Notes" for January (p. 7), reminds me that no author in the English language ever received so high a remuneration "per line" for his verses as James Smith. Longman's famous payment to Moore of a guinea a line for "Lalla Rookh" is as nothing to it, for Mr. Strachan, the King's printer, was so pleased with an epigram by Smith of eight lines, that he actually, in a codicil to his will bequeathed him £3000, or £375 per line.

R. S.

O. SMITH! The name of the "far famed Ruffian of the Adelphi," as your Correspondent, Mr. John Smith, in your Current Notes for January last, p. 7, is pleased to style a gentleman of quiet habits and literary tastes, whose real Christian names, are Richard John—the O being merely his theatrical soubriquet, possesses in his Album among many other interesting records the following witty testimonial from the late Mr. Mathews:

"*I am happy to have it in my power to express my perfect belief that Mr. O. Smith is a most respectable character in private life, though a* GREAT *Ruffian on the Stage.*

C. MATHEWS.

"*Theatre Royal,*
English Opera House,
August 21*st*, 1827."

I was so much pleased with this impromptu by Mathews, that I asked Mr. Smith's permission to copy it, and I have no hesitation in sending you my transcript to make what use of it you like.

A. B. C.

CAMPANALOGIA.

SIR,—I thank you for amending the errors and omissions about the *Bawdrick*, though at the cost of publishing to all the world that "my writing is indistinct."

I also thank your Strood Correspondent for his extract from an old Churchwarden's book, bearing on the item *Baldrick*.

I would request the favour of any of your readers who have access to old parish accounts, to publish, through the medium of your "Current Notes," (pace tuâ) any entry relating to that *item*, or to the "*Wheles of ye Belles*."

It is a desideratum in Campanalogical history, *when* and by *whom* the ingenious and beautiful Bell-wheel now in use was first introduced. In some retired villages, and indeed very generally in Dorsetshire, the *half wheel* may still be found. Bells so hung and rung, are said to be with a "*Dead Rope*." The Bell can only be "*set*" one way, and changes could not be rung on the system now practised, viz. changing the position of each bell at every half pull.

The mention of this original sort of wheel may induce some of your readers to wend their way into the Bell-chambers in their neighbourhood, and, regardless of the filthy state in which most will be found when they get there, they will, perhaps, crawl under the bells (minding their heads), and hunt out and report if they meet with any clappers hung with Bawdricks and Busk Boards, obliging many others besides your scribbler.

H. T. E.

Feb. 26, 1852.

THE UNION JACK.

SIR,—I have met in some collection of National papers with an account of the formation of our British Union Jack; but the book has altogether escaped my memory. Can you or your readers kindly name it, to yours, &c.

H. M.

London, Feb. 17, 1852.

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Pillar Print of Oliver Cromwell.

Sir,—All I can tell your correspondent, "A Young Print and Portrait Collector," in reply to his inquiry, p. 7, in your "Current Notes" for January, is, that I hope I may congratulate him on the possession of a very valuable and historically interesting engraving.

Horace Walpole mentions it as in "Dugdale's Origines Juridiciales," and describes it as "a large emblematic sheet print of Oliver Cromwell, whole-length, in armour, with variety of devices and mottoes."—*Proof.*

Granger describes it thus: "Oliver Cromwell standing with a book in his hand betwixt two pillars; various emblems. Faithorne, sc. sh." And Granger adds: "I do not remember to have seen more than two proofs of this fine print. Mr. Walpole had one, and Mr. Gulston another. Mr. Bull has the original drawing. The face was altered to that of King William."

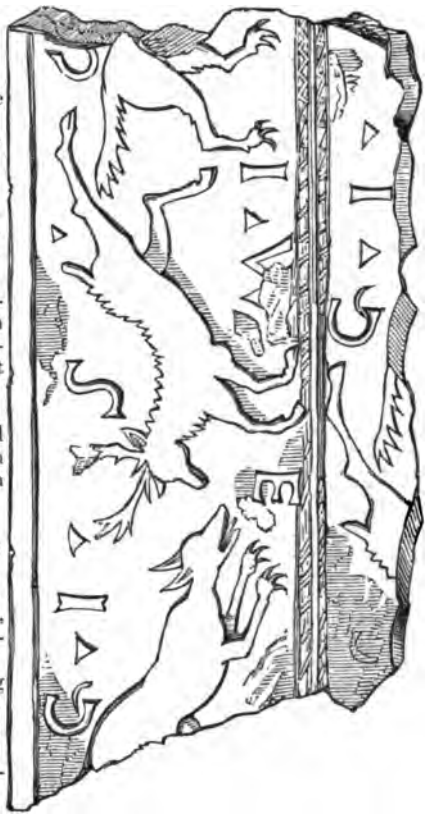
A manuscript note upon my interleaved copy of Granger, which you may remember I purchased of you, states that, "*Caulfield had not less than ten or twelve of this print, but in consequence of the size they were mostly damaged: Coram had a tolerable good one which he sold to Mr. Townley for thirty guineas.*" Caulfield, who was a well known print dealer, says in his "Calcographiana," (1814), "The late Mr. Bull shewed me Faithorne's original drawing, from which he engraved the print, and a most brilliant proof impression; from him I also learnt the face was afterwards altered to that of William III., in which state, however, I never saw it." He describes the print as "Oliver Cromwell standing between two pillars, inscribed the 'Emblem of England's distractions as also her attained and further happiness:' *large sheet;*" and values the print at no less a sum than £36. This was all very well for a dealer's valuation; however, if your correspondent will refer to the records of the Strawberry Hill Sale, he will find in the Sixth Day's Sale of the Prints, (18th June, 1842), that mentioned by Granger, Lot. "761. Oliver Cromwell, whole-length, in armour, standing between two columns, and otherwise surrounded by a variety of allegories and emblematic devices, entitled, The Emblème of England's distractions, as also of her attained and further expected Freedome and happiness: sheet, *extra rare;*" which Mr. Evans, (a dealer also), then secured for £7 15*s.* The discrepancies between the two Inscriptions appear to me to be worthy of remark, and if both have been correctly copied, with what has been stated respecting the appropriation of the head to William III., would shew that the plate had been altered more than once. The original plate is supposed to have been engraved by Faithorne, while a prisoner in London for his adherence to the cause of Charles I., and to have been so favourably received by the Parliamentary party as to have occasioned his liberation; and the alteration of the head is attributed to his son, William Faithorne, who was an engraver also.

A Collector.

Mr. Willis.

Roman Remains at Ashtead, Surrey.

A Subscriber writes—"I am not aware that this locality has received from Mr. Roach Smith, the eminent Antiquary—in fact our best authority upon Roman remains—that attention which I am convinced it deserves. The arch of a small window on the North side of Ashtead Church is turned with Roman tiles, and a variety of interesting fragments have been found in the vicinity—particularly portions of a Hypocaust, of one of which you have a representation half the size of the original—the subject is evidently a wolf attacking a stag." F. K.



The Devonshire Collection.

——— Castle,
16th January, 1852.

Sir,—I rather think the Devonshire Collection is either at the Duke's residence at Chiswick or Chatsworth. But your correspondent, (who signs himself "A Young Numismatist," p. 95, of your "Current Notes" for December), would be best answered if inquiry were made at the fountain-head; for a more amiable or kinder-hearted nobleman does not exist, than his Grace the Duke of Devonshire. Is your correspondent quite sure, however, that the Collection *is* Numismatic? I know the Duke of Devonshire has an invaluable Collection of Antique Gems, both Cameo and Intaglio.

Your obedient Servant,
B.

Mr. Willis.

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Rowland Hill and the Penny Postage.

Bristol, 5, Lodge Street,
February 26th, 1852.

Sir,—Seeing that the inquiry made by your Correspondent, I. E., and which appeared in your "Current Notes" for January last, p. 6, in a paragraph entitled, "Rowland Hill and the Penny Postage," has not been answered in the "Current Notes," for this month, I will inform you that the traveller mentioned in that paragraph was not *Rowland Hill*, but *Coleridge*. The fact was mentioned by Mr. Commissioner Hill (brother to Rowland Hill), in the last of two lectures, which he gave at the Bristol Philosophical Institution, on the evening of the 29th ultimo, "on Postal Arrangements," which I attended. An extract of the Lecture is to be found in the Bristol newspapers, and especially in the Times and Gazette, from which I copy the portion which has reference to the "Inquiry:"

"Many instances were related of the uselessness of the Post-office of those days to the poor; and the Lecturer took occasion to remark how often we were wrong and selfish in measuring any expense by our shillings and pence, forgetting that these nothings to us were pounds to the poor. Amongst other instances he referred to one mentioned in the Autobiography of Coleridge, who, whilst travelling, observed the postman offering a letter to a poor woman, urging upon her the necessity of taking it in, as it was evidently from her son. The poor woman refused; she could not afford it; but Coleridge charitably paid the shilling for her, and the postman left, when the woman expressed her grateful thanks, but was sorry he had wasted the shilling, for it was only a blank sheet addressed by her son, as a means of informing her he had reached his destination safely. Hundreds of such expedients were then employed, nor could it be wondered at."

If this communication can be of any use for your "Current Notes," it will give great pleasure, Sir, to

Your subscriber,
F. S. Donato.

Bishop Gibson.

London, Feb. 11, 1852.

Sir,—I will be much obliged to any of your correspondents who can inform me to whom Edmund Gibson, the Bishop of London, and a great authority on ecclesiastical laws, was married? and, if possible, the date of such marriage. The biographies of him which have fallen under my notice, have named no domestic circumstances but those of parentage and infancy. I think he died in 1745.

Your obedient servant,
Genealogist.

G. W.'s *Correspondent will find it stated in Faulkner's History of Fulham, that "the Bishop died at Bath, September* 6, 1748, *aged* 79, *and was buried at Fulham. He married the sister of the wife of Dr. Bettesworth, Dean of the Arches, who died suddenly in her chair, December* 28, 1741, *and by whom he had several children."*

Jewish Superstitions.

The superstitious notions and practices of the Jews in the middle ages, concerning the names of God, were singular. Of these they reckoned 72, from which, by different arrangements in sevens, they produced 720. The principal of these was אבלא, *agla*, which they disposed of in two triangles intersecting each other. This they called the "Shield of David," and pretended that it was a security against wounds, and would extinguish fires, and was able to perform other wonders.

ABRACADABRA.

אבראכאדאבראא
אבראכאדאבר
אבראכאדאב
אבראכאדא
אבראכאד
אבראכא
אבראכ
אבראא
אבר
אב
א

This word, thus written, is a charm for fever or ague, still used by some superstitious persons; it was invented by Basilides, of Alexandria, in the beginning of the 2nd century, to signify the 365 divine processions which he invented, (see Moreri); the value of the letters according to the Greek numbers, make 365 thus:

A.	B.	P.	A.	Ξ.	A.	Σ.	*Abraxas.*
1.	2.	100.	1.	60.	1.	200.	365.

Abraxas was a deity adored by the author, and was the root of his charm, as the more mysterious they were the more serviceable they were considered.

The mode of cure described in these verses, *viz.*

Inscribes Chartæ quod dicitur Abracadabra
Sæpius, et subter repetes, sed detrahe Summam,
Et magis atq. magis desint elementa figuris
Singula qua semper capies, et cætera figes
Donec in augustum redigatur Litera Conum.
His lino nexis collum redimere memento.
Talia languentis conducent vincula collo,
Lethalesq. abigent (miranda potentia) morbos.

Archæology.—Numerous Archæological Societies now exist in different parts of England, of a local character, as in Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, Cheshire; and from the Councils of which some printed volumes of Transactions have issued, as appears by occasional references in the public prints. If any of your correspondents have the means of supplying, through your "Current Notes," a list, or short account of the *titles* and *number* of volumes published, it would not only be interesting, but a very useful contribution to the current knowledge of the day, and by the publicity promote their sale, for we folks in the South know but little of what is doing in the North, East, or West: S. E.

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Ring of Mary Queen of Scots.

Sir,—Many years ago, when there was a mania for making *Gum* Seals, originating (with me, at least,) from reading of "Lord Oldborough's" seal in "Patronage," by Miss Edgeworth, I had a wax impression given me of Mary Queen of Scots' diamond ring, and its history, which was shewn with it at a sale in London, I think, in 1817. I send you the account and seal, with the copy I made in gum. If it may tend to elucidate what your Correspondent, R. B. ("Current Notes," for February, p. 16) wishes to know, I shall be glad. If it is useless, you can destroy my letter. M. C. S.

Feb. 28th, 1852.

"1817, June. The original diamond ring of Mary Queen of Scots, upon which are engraved the arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, quartered, and which was produced in evidence at the trial of the unfortunate Mary, as a proof of her pretensions to the Crown of England, was in possession of the late Mr. Blachford, a Lord of the Admiralty, at the time of his death.* The history of this fatal ring is curious: it descended from Mary to her grandson, Charles the First, who gave it, on the scaffold, to Archbishop Juxon, for his son, Charles the Second, who, in his troubles, pawned it in Holland for £300, when it was bought by Governor Yale, and sold at his sale for £320, supposed to the Pretender. Afterwards it came into possession of the Earl of Ilay, Duke of Argyll, and probably from him to the family of Mr. Blachford, at the sale of whose effects it was said to have been purchased for the Prince Regent."

* *Barrington Pope Blachford, Esq. M.P. was appointed a Lord of the Admiralty on the 23rd August*, 1814. *He died 14th May*, 1816. G. W.

J. W. B. (F. S. A.) writes—"In answer to your correspondent R. B. ("Current Notes," February) I beg to remind him, that the attendants who shew Holyrood Palace offer for sale to the visitors a *Tassie facsimile* impression seal of "Queen Mary's Signet ring." I myself purchased one last summer, and on looking to the box in which it is enclosed, I find it is stated to be copied from that "in the collection of the late Earl of Buchan." I know not whether the collection alluded to has been dispersed or not. However, if this fact be not already familiar to R. B. it may afford him some clue in his enquiry. I add an impression from the Seal, which exactly tallies with the one engraved in 'Current Notes.'"

Ring of Mary Queen of Scots.

Sir,—Having noticed your correspondent R. B.'s communication respecting the above curious relic, I beg to state that I also possess a facsimile of the same engraved upon crystal, an impression of which I enclose for your inspection. I believe the original is in Her Majesty's collection at Windsor Castle.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

15, Park Road, Stockwell. J. G. P.

Lithography.—Your Correspondent, Mr. Cole, is very much mistaken ("Current Notes," for February, p. 12) in supposing that he possesses the very *first* impression in Lithography in England, although it may be from Ackerman's press, and is certainly a curiosity. If Mr. Cole will turn to the second article in the "Foreign Review," No. VII. p. 47, he may find that Lithography was practised in England so early as 1802, and was introduced into France about 1807.

An Artist.

Mr. Meadley.

March 4, 1852.

Sir,—Can you tell me anything respecting a G. W. Meadley of Bishop Wearmouth, Sunderland? I believe he was author of some two or three works published by Baldwin and Cradock many years since.

Yours truly,

H. K.

Shovel Board.

New York,
14th January, 1852.

Sir,—It may possibly be amusing to some of your antiquarian friends to know that we have a game in use here, which I never saw or heard of in England, except in Shakspere's "Merry Wives of Windsor." I allude to Shovel-board, and I can assure you a capital game it is, requiring an eye as quick, and a hand and arm as steady, and much stronger, than billiards, which it somewhat resembles. If you wish it described with the rules of the game, say the word and I'm your man.

SS. R.

Mr. Willis.

G. W. will be glad to receive the information so kindly offered by his Correspondent.

Latin and Italian Inscription.—At Savona, on the Church of the Virgin Mary, occurs the following inscription:—

In mare irato, in torbida procella,
Invoco te, nostra benigna stella.

Each of the words are both Latin and Italian.

A. A.

Monogram.—The allusion made by your Correspondent C., in your "Current Notes" for February last, p. 11, to my relative Lord Glenelg's signature, reminds me that the letters of the following singular lines, if read backwards, will be found the same as if read in the usual manner.

Signa te, signa, temere me tangis et angis
Româ tibi subito motibus ibit amor.

A. A.

Bombay, July 16th, 1851.

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Mrs. Crabb.

Mr. Butterworth (7, Fleet Street) requests the attention of the readers of G. W.'s "Current Notes" to the distressing case of the Widow of the late Rev. George Crabb, whose death was recorded in the Literary and Scientific Obituary of last month (p. 16).

This highly respectable lady was, at the age of 80, left perfectly destitute, had it not been for the sum of £60 immediately forwarded for her relief by the Royal Literary Fund. Some friends have since subscribed about the same amount, and Mr. Butterworth's benevolent object is to raise a sum sufficient to purchase an annuity of £50 per annum for Mrs. Crabb—as the "relict of one who has laboured for nearly half a century in the preparation of works of standard usefulness."

To Correspondents.

G. W. fears that he has been taken for a conjuror, and that a serious conspiracy has been organised against him by his esteemed Correspondents (to whose commands he is always happy to respond) and the Post Office. But how is he to get on? He can only in the way of business gratefully acknowledge the favours conferred on him—execute orders—and do his best to reply in the smallest type and space in his power—one column; and with four woodcuts, which would more than occupy it without the illustrative letter-press, being before his eyes.

For these obvious reasons

Auspice Teucro. (*18th March*) *cannot, according to his request be inserted, as received too late.*

S. S. *will find in the Piazza upon enquiry a communication and facsimile most politely forwarded by Mr. Cole, in reply to a note headed* "Autographic Biography," *in* C. N. *for Feb. p.* 15.

G. S. B. Gainsborough. *Thanked: his communication will probably appear next month.*

Newspaper paragraphs of the nature referred to (about Shakspere) seldom require contradiction; but G. W.'s *correspondent, as he has kindly mentioned the name of an accomplished Prelate, will perhaps name that of the stupid Newspaper in which the paragraph originally appeared, or the more stupid Newspapers into which such a paragraph could have been copied?*

X.'s "*extraordinary*" *communication about* "*a most extraordinary Story*" *was duly received. It reminds* G. W. *of an Old Bailey piece of evidence in the case of a man who stole—not a joke, but a pair of boots that were hanging outside of a shop in Holborn; when followed and apprehended he attempted to excuse himself by saying he had taken them as a joke. The question in consequence by the Counsel was,* "*And pray how far did he carry the joke?*" "*About forty yards*"—*the reply. Now* G. W.'s *correspondent admits upon* X.'s *statement having currently carried the joke from Lincoln's Inn Fields to Covent Garden, and he only wishes that* X. *would take it back again, without the interest, with some of Rogers's lost Notes.*

Mr. Foss, Surgeon, &c., Stockton-on-Tees, *9th March. Thanked. In* "*Current Notes*" *for last month no such assertion was made as the discovery of a* "*City of Pigmies,*" *although it was stated that two dwarfs had been brought from Central America, and were exhibiting in New York. However, for the information of those who are curious upon this subject,* G. W.'s *correspondent* C. F. D. *has most kindly forwarded* "More about those Aztic Bipeds," *an extract from the New York Herald, which will be forwarded in the proper quarter.*

To G. W.'s American Correspondents *what can he say? beyond sincerely acknowledging his gratitude for the favour of their communications, and at once declaring his belief in the Great Sea Serpent, so voluminous, so overwhelming and really so important has been his Catch from the U. S.*

It would literally occupy the space that he will have it in his power to devote to Current Monthly Notes for the current year; and he scarcely knows how to proceed in the task of American Selection.

G. W. *however cannot deny himself the pleasure of acknowledging these Catches—respecting Niebuhr and Daniel Webster—*"*Lord Mahon* versus *Franklin*" *is important—but must stand over. So must the Sermon of Dr. Adams of Boston upon the death of Professor Stuart (see* "*Current Notes*" *for Feb. p.* 16)—"*Dickens' American Notes,*" *with Laura Bridgman and Longfellow's Evangeline, appears to be a twaddlish puff. Smarter American verses than Saxe's tribute to Jenny Lind Goldschmidt have come into* G. W.'s *possession. With Lady Byron's* "*sayings and doings*" *at Southampton, on board the American Frigate,* G. W. *is quite as well informed as any American Newspaper paragraph writer from the* "*Oriental Hotel*" *there, can be. The Memory of James Fennimore Cooper is as dear to the Literature of both countries as that of Thomas Moore must be. But alas, their names can only be recorded in the* "*Literary and Scientific Obituary*" *of* G. W.'s "*Current Notes,*" *almost, it is sad to think, in juxta position. Morris's* "*Yankee Doodle*" G. W. *must take in hand next month.*

Acta Sanctorum *received after going to press.*

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Bentley, Joseph Clayton. Engraver and Painter. Sydenham. 9th October, 1851. Aged 42.

Blackwood, Robert. Publisher, (Firm of Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh). 14th February.

Doane, A. S. Dr. Health Officer, (Author and Translator of Medical Works). New York. 27th January.

Keate, Rev. John, D.D. Many years Head Master of Eton College. Hartley Westpall, Hants. 5th Feb.

Kirk, Rev. John, D.D. Theology, "The Faith of Catholics," &c. Lichfield. 20th December, 1851.

Laroche, Benjamin. Translator of Shakspere and Byron. Paris, (*lately*). Aged 54.

Lees, Rev. Sir Harcourt, Bart. Political Writer. Blackrock, Dublin. 7th February. Aged 75.

Moore, Thomas. Poet. Sloperton Cottage, Wiltshire. 25th February. Aged 72.

Newell, Rev. Robert Hasell, (Rector of Little Hormead, Herts). Author of three Illustrated works, "On the locality of Goldsmith's Deserted Village," "The Scenery of Wales," and "The Zoology of the English Poets." 31st January. Aged 73.

Oxberry, William H. Actor. Author of Dramatic Chronology and Dramas. 28th February. Aged 44.

Parant, S. B. Painter on Porcelain and Ivory. Paris, (*lately*). Aged 54.

Thompson, W. C. Natural History. London. 17th February. Aged 47.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XVI.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [APRIL, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

THE ANCIENT HEBREW HARP.

SIR,—In Kitto's Biblical Cyclopædia, vol. 2. p. 373, we find the following coin, on which is engraved an ancient harp surrounded by the letters, F l l t h C h t r P h l, which may be construed thus:—

'THE FELATAH CITHARA OF PUL.'

After referring the readers of "Current Notes" to the "London Encyclopædia," word *Falasha*, and Prichard's Physical History of Mankind, vol. 1, "On the Races of People in the Interior of Africa," let us have recourse to Etymology for a further elucidation of this singular coin, and the Semi-Jewish tribe whose name it bears.

Felatah.—Hebrew פלט *phalat*, which by comparison with its cognates signifies, *to separate from, retire into*, (another country); and with its affix פלטה *phalatah*, or *Felatah*, signifying *evasio, liberatio, residuum, &c.*

Cithara.—Greek κιθαρα. Hebrew and Chaldee חטר *chatar, a stick*, (plectrum), *to beat with a stick*; therefore the instrument cannot be the עשון *asor, decachordon*; but properly, I think, the harp or lyre that was beaten with the *plectrum*.

Pul.—Hebrew פול *phul*, or *Pul*, (Isaiah lxvi. 19.) "AFRICA, *ea pars quæ apud Fesam*."

Such is the value of rightly interpreting the ancient coins of various nations.

Yours truly,
T. R. BROWN.

Southwick, Oundle, March 27th, 1852.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

In compliance with the wish very generally expressed by G. W.'s Subscribers and Correspondents, particularly by S. E. ("Current Notes" for March, p. 22,) G. W has collected the titles of the chief Archæological publications in England, and in France and Germany. The former he believes to be nearly correct, but the latter is necessarily very imperfect, with the exception of the North of France. Very few foreign Antiquarian publications find their way to this country, as reference to the libraries of the British Museum and the Society of Antiquaries will prove.

PUBLICATIONS OF ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETIES, ETC. IN ENGLAND AND IN FRANCE.

"Archæologia" of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Part I. Vol. XXXIV. 4to. 1851. Half a volume published yearly.

"Vetusta Monumenta" of the same Society; suspended for some five or six years, folio

"Proceedings of," in 8vo. published for the Fellows, quarterly, Vol. II. No. 29, 1852.

Catalogue of the Kerrich Collection of Roman Coins, 8vo. 1852.

"Archæologia Æliana" of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Vol. IV. Part 1, 4to. 1846. This work has been suspended since 1846.

Archæologia Scotica of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, suspended for many years, or, it may be said, defunct; it extends only to Part II. Vol. IV. 1833.

Journal of the British Archæological Association, Vol. VII. 8vo. complete, 1852.

Archæological Journal of the Archæological Institute, Vol. VIII. 8vo. complete, 1852.

(Vol. 1 of this work was compiled chiefly by Members of the Association, and records the Proceedings of the original institution before the secession and formation of the Institute.)

Sussex Archæological Collections, published by the Sussex Archæological Society, Vol. IV. 8vo. 1851.

Original Papers, published by the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, Vol. III. Part 3. 8vo. 1852.

Proceedings of the Bury and West Suffolk Archæological Institute, established 1848, Vol. I. Part 5. 8vo. 1851.

Proceedings and Papers of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Vol. II. Part 1. 8vo. 1851.

"Archæologia Cambriensis," and Journal of the Cambrian Archæological Association, Vol. III. (new series) Part 2. 1852.

Journal of the Chester and Cheshire Architectural Archæological Society, Vol. I. Part 1. 8vo. 1850.

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Proceedings of the Kilkenny Archæological Society?
Museum of Classical Antiquities, Part I. Vol. II. 8vo. 1852.
Collectanea Antiqua (by C. Roach Smith,) Part IX. Vol. II. 8vo. 1852.
Reliquiæ Antiquæ Eboracenses, (by W. Bowman,) Part II. 4to. Leeds, 1852.
Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society, Vol. XV. No. 1, 1852.

There are numerous other local Societies in England, but as they have never printed any proceedings they can scarcely be regarded as more than nominally Archæological Societies.

FOREIGN SOCIETIES, ETC.

Society of Antiquaries of France, Proceedings, (Bulletin Monumental), 8vo. annually to 1851.
Society of Antiquaries of Normandy (Caen) Mémoires, 2e Série, 9e Vol. 4to. (Vol. XIX of the Collection,) 1852.
Society of Antiquaries of Picardy (Amiens,) Vol. XI. 8vo. 1851.
Society of Antiquaries of the West (Poitiers), Vol. XVIII. 8vo. 1848.
Society of Antiquaries of the Morini (St. Omer), Vol. VIII. 8vo. 1850.
Society of Emulation of Abbeville, Vol. VI. 8vo. 1851.
Société E'duenne des Lettres, Sciences et Arts, (Autun), Vol. II. 8vo. 1849.
Society for Historical Researches, etc. of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, Vol. III. 4to. 1847.
Revue Numismatique (quarterly), commenced in 1836, 8vo. This work is very valuable, not only for the excellent papers it contains, but also for the numerous illustrations. Edited by MM. E. Cartier and de la Saussaye.
Revue Archéologique (quarterly), commenced in 1844. 8vo. Leleux, Paris—Curt, London. Also a valuable periodical.
Annalen des Vereins für Nassauische Alterthumskunde und Geschichtsforschung (Wiesbaden), 8 vols. 8vo. to 1850.
Zeitschrift des Vereins zur Erforschung der Rheinischen Geschichte u. Alterthümer in Mainz, (Mayence), in 8vo. and 4to. 1850.
Jahrbücher des Vereins von Alterthumsfreunden im Rheinlande, No. XVI. 8vo. 1851. Bonn.
Geschichte der vormaligen freien adeligen Benedictiner-Abtei Sunnesheim von Karl Wilhelmi, from 1831 to 1851, in 8vo. Sinsheim.

Most of these German publications are in thin yearly volumes without indices.

THE LEARNED SOCIETIES AND PRINTING CLUBS *of the United Kingdom*, as existing in 1847, have been classified in an 8vo. volume of 307 pages, by the Rev. Dr. Hume, to which those who require information respecting their Origin, History, Objects, and Constitution, are referred. It contains full details as to Membership, Fees, their published Works, Notices of their Periods and Places of Meeting, with a General Introduction, and a good Index. As a book of reference, it is absolutely necessary for all public libraries.

THE ORIGIN OF YANKEE DOODLE. — The "Transcript," (American paper), of 28th February last, contains the following pungent verses respecting

THE ORIGIN OF YANKEE DOODLE,

AFTER THE MANNER OF THE OLD CONTINENTAL BALLAD WRITERS, BY GEORGE P. MORRIS, ESQ.

Once on a time old Johnny Bull,
Flew in a raging fury,
And swore that Jonathan should have
No trials, sir, by jury:
That no elections should be held,
Across the briny waters:
"And now," says he, "I 'll tax the tea
Of all his sons and daughters."
Then down he sat in burly state,
And blustered like a grandee,
And in derision made a tune
Called "Yankee Doodle dandy."
"Yankee Doodle"—these are facts—
"Yankee doodle dandy:
"My son of wax, your tea I 'll tax—
"Yankee doodle dandy."

John sent the tea from o'er the sea
With heavy duties rated;
But whether hyson or bohea,
I never heard it stated.
Then Jonathan to pout began—
He laid a strong embargo—
"I 'll drink no tea, by Jove!" so he
Threw overboard the cargo.
Then Johnny sent a regiment,
Big words and looks to bandy,
Whose martial band, when near the land,
Play'd "Yankee doodle dandy."
"Yankee doodle—keep it up!
"Yankee doodle dandy!
"I 'll poison with a tax your cup,
"Yankee doodle dandy."

A long war then they had, in which
John was at last defeated—
And "Yankee doodle" was the march
To which his troops retreated.
Cute Jonathan, to see them fly,
Could not restrain his laughter:
"That tune," says he, "suits to a T,
I 'll sing it ever after."
Old Johnny's face, to his disgrace,
Was flushed with beer and brandy,
E'en while he swore to sing no more,
This "Yankee doodle dandy."
"Yankee doodle—ho! ha! he!
"Yankee doodle dandy—
"We kept the tune, but not the tea,
"Yankee doodle dandy."

I 've told you now the origin
Of this most lively ditty,
Which Johnny Bull dislikes as "dull
And stupid!"—what a pity!

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With "Hail Columbia!" it is sung,
In chorus full and hearty—
On land and main, we breathe the strain,
John made for his tea-party.
No matter how we rhyme the words,
The music speaks them handy,
And where 's the fair can't sing the air,
Of "Yankee doodle dandy!"
"Yankee doodle—firm and true—
"Yankee doodle dandy—
"Yankee doodle, doodle doo!
"Yankee doodle dandy."

Lord Mahon and General Greene and La Fayette.—C. F. D. presents his compliments to Mr. Willis, and with reference to the fifth paragraph headed "Scraps from the United States," which appeared in "Current Notes" for February last, p. 13, forwards him the following communication, which from the initials he presumes is from the pen of Mr. Hildreth, the historian:—

"The fifth and sixth volumes of Lord Mahon's History of England from the peace of Utrecht, have for a leading subject the early years of the American Revolutionary War. Writing from the English point of view, the proceedings of Parliament and the English side of the story naturally form the foreground of the picture, while the affairs of the colonies themselves—certainly the most interesting as well as the most important, not for Americans only, but for all historical students—fall into a distant perspective. The American part of Lord Mahon's book is very slight in its execution, made up mostly of anecdotes and extracts of letters, good as illustrations, but hardly as substance; indicating often but a superficial knowledge on the part of the writer, and conveying to the reader no distinct or connected idea of the American side of the story. With a great show of candour, 'My Lord' also evinces throughout a somewhat anxious desire to depreciate the 'rebels.' Thus Franklin is pursued with pitiful but persevering rancour, charged with falsehood and duplicity, because he, like most of the other Americans of that day, arrived at the point of separation and independence only by gradual steps; because his opinions and views of 1769 and 1775 did not correspond altogether with those of 1795; and because he appears to have spoken—as what was more natural?—with somewhat more of freedom and with greater dislike of the British connexion among his intimate associates than when addressing himself to the British ministry or to British statesmen.

A curious instance of this sort of spitefulness, which constantly exhibits itself throughout the book, occurs in the case of Gen. Greene, of whom Lord Mahon writes: "The command of this important post (Brooklyn) was entrusted by Washington to Gen. Greene, an officer of bravery and enterprise, '*but of intemperate habits;*' and he adds, in a note, '*Greene, un général souvent ivre.*' These are the words of La Fayette; Mém. et Corresp. Vol. I. p. 21, ed. 1837." The edition in the original French here quoted is not at hand, but in that published the same year at New York and London, in England, and like the French edition under authority of La Fayette's representatives, the entire passage above referred to, reads as follows: After an account of the appearance of the American army as first seen by La Fayette in the summer of 1777—about 11,000 men, ill armed, and still worse clothed, and very deficient in tactics, La Fayette adds: 'Lord Stirling, more courageous than judicious, *another General who was often intoxicated*, and Greene, whose talents were only then known to his intimate friends, commanded as Major Generals.' The other General here referred to was Stephen, who was cashiered not long after on that very ground, for his misbehaviour at the Battle of Germantown. And as there can scarcely be a doubt that this version gives the correct sense of the French original, there is room for apprehension that Lord Mahon is not only incorrect in giving only a part of a sentence, thus putting into La Fayette's mouth what he never said, but that even the order of the words has been changed, the name of Greene being removed from the end to the beginning of the quotation. Upon this point I will add something further, so soon as I can obtain the French original."

H. H.

The Sale of Antiquities, &c. which took place at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's rooms, on the 5th of this month, and two following days, although one made up by the dealers in such articles, attracted considerable attention, and many things, if not bought in, realised considerable prices; the total produce of the sale being, it is said, upwards of twelve hundred pounds.

In the first and third day's sale several lots of articles, well known to Archæologists as Celts, and of which the usual appearance may be recognised from figures 1 and 2, sold on the average for about half-a-crown each. A large quantity of antique gems—none of any extraordinary merit—in modern setting of gold, ranged from about ten shillings to two guineas each. There were some specimens of Irish ring money, which sold or were bought in at very high prices; and some appeared to have been tampered with, if not manufactured for the market.

fig. 1. fig. 2.

The second day's sale contained many good Etruscan and Roman bronzes. A Winged Victory (Lot 222) was knocked down at £5. A Lamp with the original chain for suspension (Lot 238) at £5. 8*s*. An Etruscan stew-pan (Lot 256) at £5. 10*s*. And the Leg of a Roman Warrior, the foot sandalled (Lot 234) at £7. 7*s*. But the great object of the day was (Lot 266) a bronze figure of an Archer, which was stated to have been discovered

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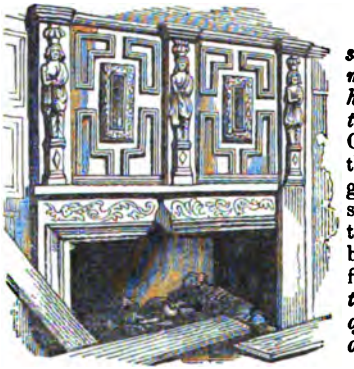
in July, 1842, while excavating for making a sewer in Queen Street, Cheapside, London, and which, if standing erect, would have been fifteen inches, but in its stooping posture the perpendicular height was about eleven inches. It has been described and figured in the Archæologia, vol. xxx. plate xxii. p. 544.

This really fine work of art was put up at 30 guineas, and, after a slight struggle, knocked down to Purnell B. Purnell, Esq., of Stancombe Park, Dursley, Gloucestershire for 125. The Etruscan fictile vases sold for about as many shillings as forty years ago they would have brought pounds, but the miscellaneous articles brought extraordinarily high prices. Two Necklaces of common Venetian beads (Lots 351 and 357) worth about half-a-crown each, were eagerly contended for, and the hammer fell at £2. 6*s*. The second day's sale closed with a struggle for various gold Etruscan fibulæ and ornaments, which went at high prices, and it was understood in the room that an Etruscan gold necklace, with a head of Medusa attached, was bought in at no less a sum than £50.

The third day's sale was less attractive. An exceedingly curious Lamp in bronze (Lot 470), of oval form, with four burners issuing from the sides, the handle formed of figures of grotesque animals, and stated to have been found near London Bridge, produced four guineas. There were a few (eight) illuminated Manuscripts, but none sold for extravagant prices. An Etruscan gold wreath, composed of masks and foliage worn round the helmet, from the Canino Collection (Lot 529) was secured by T. Crofton Croker, Esq., for £19. 10*s*. With the disposal of some Shaksperian relics this very miscellaneous sale closed, but they did not appear to be much coveted.

There were some fine and many desirable specimens, with a few of very doubtful character, and some unquestionable forgeries. The Earl Cadogan, Sir Gardiner Wilkinson, Dr. Henderson, and other amateurs of Art and Archæology, seemed to watch the progress of the sale with considerable interest. N.

THE GOLDEN LION, FULHAM, "should not," writes G. W.'s Correspondent, T. C. C. "be confounded with the Golden Lion, Brompton, the exterior decoration of which was figured in 'Current Notes,' No. III. for March, 1851, p. 22, with a facetious reference to Sir Charles Eastlake's speech at the Macready dinner." And it appears to G. W.'s Correspondent that T.M. in "Current Notes" for March last, No. XV. p. 19, and the Rev. Dr. Hume, of Liverpool, February, No. XIV. p. 10, are both in an unnecessary "*fume*" about what easily admits of explanation; if, indeed, the history of an old tobacco pipe required one. "Suppose," says T. M. "that I was in a hoaxing humour, and that no such Inn ever existed at Fulham as the Golden Lion?" "Now," continues our Correspondent, "I may as well suppose that no such person ever existed as T. M., but to prove that such an Inn existed at Fulham as the Golden Lion, I send you a series of twelve sketches which were presented to me by Mr. Henry Warren, the President of the New Society of Watercolour Painters, and which were made of and in it in April, 1836, previous to the old hostelrie being pulled down and replaced by a modern public house bearing the same name. You have my permission to engrave any one or two of these studies, and I have been assured that the oak panneling of some of the principal rooms was purchased by a dealer, and re-sold to the Earl of Ellenborough for the fitting of his Lordship's résidence, Southam House, Cheltenham."



Availing himself of this permission, G. W. has caused first to be engraved the Chimney Piece of the back room, ground floor, South side, *and opposite* the Chimney Piece, back room, first floor, *as characteristic specimens of this curious old house.*

FORMATION OF THE UNION JACK.

Esplanade, Sidmouth, March 27th, 1852.

SIR,—The annexed may possibly be of use to H. M. in your "Current Notes" for March, but I am not able to refer to the work from which it is taken.

Yours obediently,

Mr. WILLIS. W. G. CLARKE.

St. George's red cross on a white ground, and St. Andrew's white cross (diagonally) on a blue ground. In 1800, *St. Patrick's red cross, on a white ground, was added.*

The flag should be constructed to shew the three crosses distinctly.

THE UNION JACK.

Yarm°, March 29th, 1852.

SIR,—"H. M." of the March "Current Notes," p. 20, enquires "the formation of our British Union Jack." To describe it in heraldic terms is as follows:

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Az. a cross saltire argent encalved gules; over all a common cross, the same as first. I believe there are no given rules as to its proportion. This appears to be the best, viz. the breadth three-fourths of the length. But the inclosed, forwarded to H. M., will suffice for all.*

W.

* *H. M. will find the drawing so kindly forwarded addressed to him at the Publisher's.* G. W.

The Union Jack and Monumental Brasses.

11, Montpelier Square, Brompton,
March 28th, 1852.

Sir,—Your Correspondent, H. M. will find a very curious history of the origin and formation of the Union Jack in Brayley's "Graphic Illustrator:" it is written by the late Sir Harris Nicolas, and the "absurd arrangement" of the National Flag elucidated by nine heraldic woodcuts.

Perhaps you will permit me to embrace this opportunity of saying a few words on the abstraction of Monumental Brasses from churches, which has attracted the attention of some of your Correspondents lately; one of whom throws the blame almost wholly on "the sectarian soldiers of Cromwell's time."* I am not desirous of defending these men, but I *am* desirous that modern Churchwardens should not screen their neglect by such an excuse. A slight research among our topographical works will prove, that a very large abstraction and destruction of such memorials has taken place in comparatively recent times. In the introduction to Cotman's "Brasses of Norfolk and Suffolk," he notes that "in 1800 the chancel of Ingham was completely swept of all its beautiful memorials of the Stapleton family. They were sold as old metal, and it was commonly reported by whom they were bought and sold; but nobody sought to recover them; neither minister nor churchwarden cared for any of these things." The beautiful brass (engraved in this same work) of Robert Attelath, Mayor of Lynn in 1374, was about forty years ago "given out of the church by the Churchwardens to a person who sold it for five shillings to a brass founder." The collection of rubbings from Brasses made about the same time and bequeathed to the British Museum by the late Francis Douce, present several since destroyed. The Journal of the Archæological Association narrates the fact of several removed from a country church because their rivets became loose, and "tripped up the old women who came to the fore seats in the aisle." I remember several instances of Brasses thus loosened, taken up and thrown in vestries or belfries, until they were sufficiently forgotten to be carried out and sold to the metal-founder. Some few Antiquaries have argued that they are better taken care of in their museums than thus exposed to destruction; and churchwardens being willing "to get rid of the ugly old things," many have disappeared this way. Let me, however, record one instance of honourable restitution. The effigy of an armed knight, of the Bacon family, (temp. Edw. I.) in Gorleston Church, Suffolk, engraved by Cotman, "in 1810 was gone, and supposed to be irretrievably lost; but at the sale of Mr. Craven Ord's curiosities, it was purchased by John Gage, Esq., who, with correct feeling and good taste, gave it back to the church, and Dawson Turner, Esq., at his expense, had it replaced in its original position." Surely, the soldiers of Cromwell have sins enough to answer for, without heaping those of modern Churchwardens on their heads.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

Mr. G. Willis. F. W. Fairholt.

* See communication from "One of the Executors" of the late Sir Samuel R. Meyrick, printed in "Current Notes" for January last, p. 2.

Monumental Brasses of Lincolnshire.

The Lincolnshire Architectural Society propose to superintend the publication of the most interesting Monumental Brasses of that County. The work to be comprised in 12 parts, containing about five plates each; and published at intervals of two months: with a small volume of descriptive letter-press at the close of the series.

Brasses from the following churches (among others) will be included in this series:—Barton, Boston, Buslingthorpe, Great Coates, Croft, Covenham, Grainthorpe, Gunby, Hainton, Irnham, South Kelsey, Linwood, South Ormsby, Spilsby, Tattershall, Wrangle, &c.

The Rev. F. P. Lowe, Saltfleetby, Louth, is the Hon. Sec. of the Lincolnshire Architectural Society. But the work will not be issued till a sufficient number of subscribers, at £1 4*s*, or at about 6*d* per plate, has been obtained to ensure the Society against any loss.

Archæological Societies, and their Works.

Northampton, March 14th, 1852.

Sir,—I am rather amused (see p. 12 "Current Notes" for February last) at the apparent strength of Architectural Science in the Midland Counties. There are, it seems, *four* Societies, and in one year they publish almost one volume! If *four* Societies can only produce one "handsome octavo volume" in so long a period, I should suggest their dissolving themselves, and let some *one* active and competent member do the work. The truth is, half of these *Societies* are merely architectural Mrs. Harrises—talked about, but seldom or never seen. One liberal man, who would give a couple of hundred of pounds towards a work published by some creditable architect, would beat them all.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Mr. Willis. Anti-Socialist.

Wierx, the Engraver.

April 2nd, 1852.

Sir,—I shall be obliged by any reference you can give me, through your interesting columns, to the works and date of an old engraver, "H. Wierx," and oblige

Yours,

Mr. Willis. W. W. C.

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The Pillar Print of Oliver Cromwell.

Brompton, April 10th, 1852.

Dear Sir,—As this famous Portrait seems to be an object of interest to several of your subscribers, I take the liberty of adding my mite of information concerning it. In the March Number of "Current Notes," p. 21, it is stated that Caulfield valued a good impression of it at £36, but your Correspondent remarks, that "this was all very well for a dealer's valuation," adding, that the one sold at the Strawberry Hill sale was bought by a printseller for £7. 15*s*. That Caulfield was nearly right in his appreciation, I find confirmed by reference to the Catalogue of the 'extensive and choice collection of Prints' formed by my uncle, the late Robert Morse, Esq. of Clarges Street, Piccadilly, which was sold by auction by the well-known Dodd, May 15th, 1816, and 27 following days. This portrait (Lot 1335), described as "an excellent impression and of the utmost rarity," sold for £30 19*s* 6*d*. This, it is true, was in the high and palmy time of print-collecting, as the prices of a few others will testify. James I. by W. Pas, sold for £14 3*s* 6*d*. Edward Somerset, Earl of Worcester, by Simon Pas, for £9 9*s*. Edmond Baron Sheffield, for £10. Sir Julius Cæsar, by Elstracke, for £10 10*s*. Frances Bridges, Countess of Exeter, by Faithorne, for £10. Lot 3602, Strutt's Dictionary of Engravers, illustrated by 2820 prints, exhibiting specimens of the works of 1680 different engravers, bound in 18 vols. sold for £288 15*s*. Lot 3600, Vandyck's Works, a magnificent collection of engravings after his paintings, for £198; and others in the same proportion.

Your obedient servant and collaborateur,

Mr. Willis. Charles Edmonds.

Tokens of the Seventeenth Century.

The notice of Tradesmen's tokens, inserted in the "Current Notes" of Feb. 25th, has attracted more attention than I expected, as besides the letters published in the Notes of March 25th, I have had direct communications from Andover and Downpatrick. In reply to the obliging letter of "K. L." Dublin, I beg to say, that I had seen the engraving of the Cork farthing in Mr. Lindsay's work, but as I did not sufficiently express my meaning, I will now explain what I meant by "*the Commonwealth Arms*," viz. that the two shields of Arms of England and Ireland were side by side, as shewn on the Token engraved in the "Notes," and precisely in the form they appear on the Coins of the Commonwealth, not separate as on the Cork farthing, one shield on the obverse, the other on the reverse side. They are all scarce: I do not know a single example of these Arms on an English token. Dr. Smith's Catalogue of Irish Tokens was unknown to me; I shall take the first opportunity to procure a copy.

My chief object in writing the notice was to get any information concerning the Tokens of Scotland, whether there are any besides the Royal tokens. The Scotch tokens of the 18th Century, mentioned by your correspondent "M. A. M." are well known, and engraved in the excellent work by Charles Pye, on the "Provincial Coins and Tokens issued from the year 1787 to 1801, Birmingham, 1801."

The following passage from Thoresby, the Leeds historian, who was a celebrated Numismatist in his day, gives the best information I can find on the subject: he says:—

"When private persons first obtained liberty of having their own names inscribed on the Tokens, I cannot learn. Sir William Dick had that favour in Charles I.'s time, but that was in Scotland. It seems to have been otherwise in England. I have by me a copy of an order in Council, whereby it appears that only the King's farthing tokens should be current here,* and the privilege of coining them was granted to the Duke of Lennox, and the Marquis of Hamilton, under the Great Seal."

The passage is obscure, and does not sufficiently give the information wanted, as the great bulk of these tokens were issued during the time of the Commonwealth and the reign of Charles II.

The study of Tradesmen's tokens has met with such unmerited contempt from some of our ablest antiquaries, that it seems rash to attempt an apology for them; but any one who is well acquainted with them knows the fund of amusement and instruction that may be derived from them, and if they continue to be slighted as they have been, many specimens will be irretrievably lost to future antiquaries. A few further remarks on them may be interesting to your general readers.

After a careful calculation, I cannot estimate the number of these tokens at less than 40,000, and I think that number less than the real quantity; from various correspondence with collectors, I always find that they have a large number different to mine. Mr. Akerman has described 2461 in his list of London Tokens only. The great loss to the public compelled the Government to put them down under the severest penalties: very large numbers may be picked out of a collection, which would require a dozen to weigh a modern halfpenny; their paltry intrinsic value, no doubt, prompted many unprincipled shopkeepers to issue them, from the profit they derived from the quantity which would be lost, owing to their small size. There is scarcely a village that had not its local currency. I possess tokens of 684 cities, towns, and villages.

Amongst the different trades and professions which appear on the tokens, that of a Musician is seldom met with: the following is an interesting example, and furnishes an early example of Punch—

* The word "here" is ambiguous; I suppose "in Scotland" is intended.

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Henry Laude, Newark, says, "Noe want where these are." The cruel sport of cock fighting is on the token of William Docker, of Leeds, drawer. Gateshead has a punning coat of arms—a goat's head: to the lovers of Heraldry there is a fund of amusement; besides the Arms of the Trading Companies of London, we have the Arms of Corporations, and families. Many of the Corporations issued their tokens: Wotton-under-Edge has, "This farthing token will be owned by the Mayor and Aldermen." The Bristol Corporation farthing is of good size and execution: many different dies were used. It is an exceedingly common token, and remarkable, as being the only one issued in that important commercial town. Many names of towns appear on these tokens, which would puzzle a gazetteer to find out: two names occur to me at this moment, OZED and FAIREFAX.

To those who are interested in Tokens, I would recommend the "Reliquiæ Antiquæ Eboracenses, or Remains of Antiquities in Yorkshire," which can be supplied by you: two numbers are published, each containing a plate of Yorkshire Tokens.

Leeds, April 1852. WILLIAM BOYNE.

THE PERCY SOCIETY have resolved "that considering the present circumstances of the Society, it is expedient that the Society be dissolved at the close of the current year, (30th April next); and that the Books which remain in hand be divided amongst those Members, then not in arrear of their subscriptions, so far as the stock will allow, and with advantage of priority in proportion to the period of subscription."

MONUMENT TO THE POET BLAIR.—"The Glasgow *literati* propose to erect a monument at Athelstaneford, to the memory of Blair, the author of "The Grave," and other poetical works. Blair was long the parish Minister of Athelstaneford, and is buried in the grave-yard there." —*Sunday Times, 11th April.*

BOCCACCIO'S DECAMERONE.

Your Correspondent W. B. M. ("Current Notes" for March last, p. 20), will find a curious account of the auction sale of the *Boccaccio*, in the third volume of Dibdin's Bibliographical Decameron, and a minute description of the precious volume itself in the Bibliotheca Spenceriana, Vol. iv. It is not however "unique." There was a copy in the Blenheim Collection, and another somewhat defective and "cruelly washt and cropt," in the Royal Library at Paris,

Yours truly,

MR. WILLIS. A BOOKWORM.

WILLIAM DENHAM.—Who was a Member of the Goldsmith's Company in the reign of Elizabeth. F. R. S. enquires, "Can any of G. W.'s Correspondents give me any particulars respecting him? If so, I should feel much obliged."

SHAKESPEARE'S CHARACTERS.

Gainsborough, March 15, 1852.

SIR,—There has gone the round of the papers a paragraph, stating that though individuals of almost every nation appear as characters in one or other of Shakespeare's Plays, yet there never occurs an Irishman. I do not know whether this has been contradicted or not; but it is capable of contradiction, as a distinguished Prelate proved to me by taking down his volume of Shakespeare, containing the Play of Henry V. There in the 3rd Act, Scene 2nd, Fluellen, the Welchman, holds an animated and very characteristic conversation with Capt. Macmorris, an Irishman. The original can be consulted. The Irish peculiarities are well hit off. So much for the charge of omission which has been brought against our great Bard,

I am, Sir, yours, faithfully,

MR. WILLIS. C. S. B.

QUERIES.

SIR,—I shall be greatly obliged if you will permit me to propound the following queries in your "Current Notes:"

1. Is any endeavour being made to complete that vast work, the "Acta Sanctorum," the last volume of which was published at Brussels in 1845?
2. Where can I see a list of the persons on whom it was proposed by Charles the Second to confer the Order of the Royal Oak?
3. Is there any English translation of the "Aurea Legenda" besides the one by Caxton, and has that translation ever been reprinted? E. P.

AUTOGRAPHIC BIOGRAPHY.

March 6, 1852.

SIR,—I have taken some little pains to find out S. S.'s quere ("Current Notes," Feb. p. 15), without further success than to presume (in the absence of a facsimile) that the "Orford" must be the Earl created 1742, there being a "Kendal" title then in existence: extinct 1743. Your correspondent can, without great difficulty, compare it with those mutilated documents, I should say, that have been so frequently dispersed at the various sales from the stock of Messrs. Upcott, Cole & Co., originally in the Exchequer State Paper Office, from whence no doubt it came.

Yours,

MR. WILLIS. "MAGOG."

MRS. BODDINGTON.

29th March, 1852.

SIR,—Perhaps some of your readers will kindly afford me some information relative to MRS. BODDINGTON, authoress of *The Gossip's Week, Reminiscences of the Rhine, Sketches of the Pyrenees*, and a volume of *Poems*, published by Longman & Co. in 1839?

Yours obediently,

W.

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THE ARCTIC SEARCHING EXPEDITION.—No less than twenty Flags have been presented to Captain Sir Edward Belcher, designed and embroidered by the fair fingers of his relatives and friends. Previous to the sailing of the "Assistance," they were displayed on the quarter-deck of that ship, for the inspection of the distinguished visitors who repaired on board to take leave of this distinguished, gallant, and enterprising officer. The following list of their devices and mottoes may not be an uninteresting record:—

1. Black pouncing eagle, white ground, scarlet border. Motto, on scarlet ground,
"SPEED TO THE RESCUE." C. B.

2. Golden lion, blue ground, scarlet border. Garter enclosing, with motto in black,
"WHILST I BREATHE, I HOPE." M. R.

3. Gold anchor, blue ground. Motto,
"HOPE ON—HOPE EVER." E. M.

4. White bear, blue ground. Motto,
"BEAR AND FORBEAR." C. M.

5. Spade, ice-saw, pickaxe, bright green ground. Motto, on black scroll,
"PERSEVERE AND PROSPER." S. C. M.

6. Gold star, crimson ground,
"LEAD THOU US ON." S. A. W.

7. White dove, blue ground. Motto, on scarlet,
"GO FORTH IN FAITH." M. L.

8. Gold star, blue ground. Motto,
"FAITHFUL AND TRUE." E. B.

9. Green wreath, crimson ground. Motto,
"NONE BUT THE BRAVE DESERVE THE CROWN." I. W.

10. Gold lion, scarlet. Motto, on blue garter,
"DANGERS DO NOT DAUNT ME." F. E. P.

11. Fleet greyhound, blue ground. Motto,
"SWIFT ON MY COURSE." C. G. P.

12. Family crest, blue ground. Family motto, on garter,
"LOYAL AU MORT." H. B.

13. Purple, crimson ornament, blue ground. Motto,
"SUCCESS TO THE BRAVE." M. B.

14. Orange silk. Motto, in purple,
"BE OF GOOD COURAGE." M. L. B.

15. Crown in centre. Swallow-tail shape. Gold and blue. Motto,
"SUCCESS TO THE BRAVE." A. S. B. T.

16. Enclosed in a garter, a setting sun; on the garter, a white daisy.
"I WATCH FOR YOUR RETURN." M. A. P.

17. White centre, scarlet border. Motto, in purple,
"BY FAITH AND COURAGE." C. T.

18. Star, white and silver, blue ground. Motto,
"NEVER DESPAIR. VICTORY FOLLOWS THE BRAVE." F. M. H.

19. Greek oak wreath, "BLANCHE" in centre, maize ground. Motto,
"BRIGHT EYES FOR BRAVE HEARTS." B. T.

20. An eagle on rock, breaking his chain, light blue; in the four corners, the initials H. D.—I. D.—S. D. and U. D., light blue ground. Motto,
"ADVERSA REPELLO VIRTUTE." L.

This flag was understood to have been the work of the Hon. Misses Denison, and to have been presented to Sir Edward Belcher by Lady Londesborough.

The flag, said to have been presented, with the motto, "GO IT, NED," was not among the number exhibited.

AN EASTER MONDAY VISITOR TO WOOLWICH.

To CORRESPONDENTS.

ORIENTALIS.—In type; must stand over.

THE DRAMATIC REGISTER FOR 1851, received.

MR. MEADLEY.—Four communications, W. S. G., "WM. DODD," G., and "A BOOKWORM," in type, but must stand over.

PILGRIM'S BADGE, Venice, 26th February, 1852.—Ditto.

AN ARTIST.—Doorway in Woking Church, Surrey, must, and will, be considered.

R. B., New York, 19th March.—Received, and will be attended to.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

ANDERSON, Rev. Christopher. Gaelic Scholar, "Annals of the English Bible," &c. Edinburgh. 18th Feb. Aged 70.

BROWN, Samuel, Captain Sir. Inventor of Chain Cables, Bridges and Piers of Suspension. Vanbrugh Lodge, Blackheath. 13th March. Aged 76.

BUCHANAN, Alexander of Govan. Lyric Writer in Glasgow periodicals. 15th February. Aged 38.

CAVÉ, M. Formerly Director of the Fine Arts in the Ministry of the Interior. Paris. Recently.

DRECHSLER, Joseph. Musical Composer and Writer. Vienna. Recently. Aged 70.

GAY, Madame Sophie. Journalist. Paris. 4th March.

JONES, Rev. Evan. Welsh Scholar. Editor of various Welsh periodicals. Cardiff. 23rd Feb. Aged 32.

LANDSEER, John, A.R.A. Engraver and Archæologist. March 29th. Aged 91.

MARCHETTI, Giovanni. Italian Poet. Bologna. Recently.

MARRAST, Armand. Editor of the *National* before the Revolution of 1848. Paris. March.

MERLE, M. Dramatic Critic. Paris. 27th February. Aged 67.

RAUPACH, Ernest. Dramatic Writer. Berlin. 18th March.

SAINT-EDMÉ, M. Author of the "Dictionnaire des Peines et des Délits de l'Europe," and joint author with M. Sarrut of the "Biographie des Hommes du Jour." Paris. Recently (by his own hand).

SEDDELER, M. Military Encyclopedia. St. Petersburgh. 3rd March.

SHOBERL, Frederick, jun. Printer. 51, Rupert Street, Haymarket. 22nd March. Aged 48.

TAILLEFER, M. Ex-curator of the Lyceums of Versailles, and of Louis-le-Grand. Paris. Recently.

TUCKER, John, Montmorency. (Colonel late 27th Enniskilleners and a Waterloo Officer.) "Biographies of Wellington and Nelson," &c. Huggens's Asylum, Northfleet, Kent. 22nd February. Aged 72.

WATTS, W. Engraver. Cobham, Surrey. 7th December. Aged 99.

WEST, Jane, Mrs. Poetry and Novels. Little Bowden, Market Harborough. 25th March. Aged 93.

WINTERFELDT, Rodolphe de. Musical Writer. Berlin. Recently. Aged 67.

WRIGHT, Andrew Biggs. History of Hexham, &c. Bexley Heath, Kent. 3rd March.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XVII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [MAY, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

ORDER OF THE ROYAL OAK.

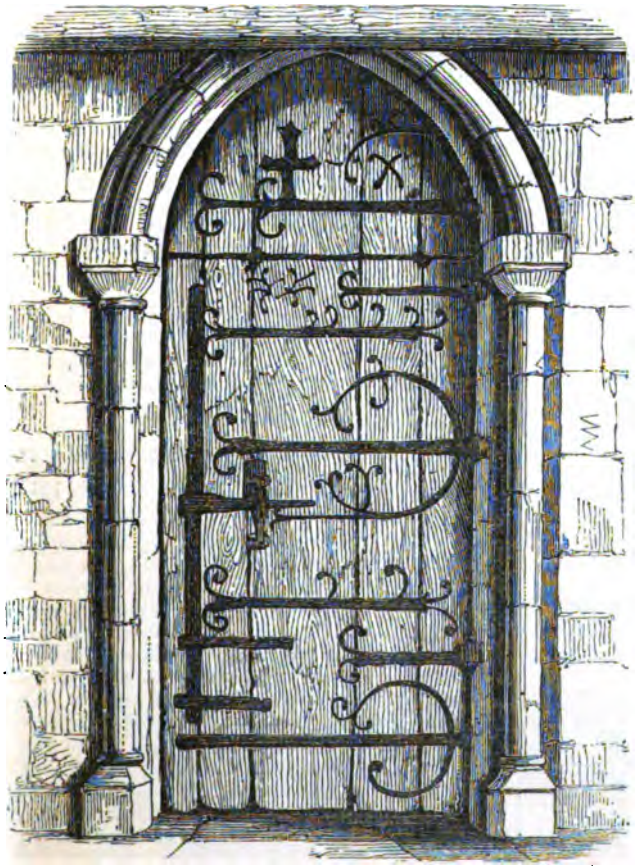
Oxf. and Cam. Club, May 4, 1852.

MR. WILLIS—You can inform E. P. in reply to his second query ("Current Notes," for April, p. 31), that there is a printed list of the Knights of the Royal Oak, and the value of their respective estates (copied from a MS. of Le Neve's) in the Appendix to Vol. I. of "Burke's History of the Commoners," edit. 1834.

There is also, I believe, another printed list (probably taken from the same MS.) in "Burke's Patrician."

I have met with written lists of them among the MSS. in the British Museum, which could no doubt be found by reference to the Catalogues of the Harleian and the other MSS.

I remain, your obedient servant,
G. E. ADAMS.



DOORWAY IN WOKING CHURCH, SURREY.

SIR,—As in your "Current Notes" for December last, p. 92, you have engraved a sketch of the Baptismal Font in Woking Church, forwarded to you with some interesting observations, signed "FONS," I venture to send you a sketch of a door-way in the same Church, which appears to me to afford a good example of ancient iron work, and respecting the age of which I should be glad of information, as you appear to have Correspondents who are able and willing to give it. See S. C.'s observation in the same number of "Current Notes," as that the Woking Font was figured in p. 91, under the head "TURNBUCKLE," and the practical remarks upon the terms "TURNBUCKLE and LATCH," by "*one who has been an Ironmonger's Apprentice*," published in your "Current Notes" for January last, p. 5.

I am, Sir,
Your humble and obliged servant,
"AN ARTIST."

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American Opinion upon International Copyright.

"Quite a contest between the *Tribune* and *Times* of New York, is going on at present on the subject of an International Copyright Law. The *Tribune* being friendly to such a law, of course has the best of the argument. We think, however, that if English authors would throw themselves upon the protection of the common law of the United States, their rights would be respected without the aid of statutes. Mr. James, the novelist, Mr. Mountford, and other English writers, come here and take out copyrights for their works before they have themselves acquired the rights of citizenship, and without signifying their intentions of becoming permanent residents. The law will no doubt protect them in the rights which they thus assume; and we further believe it would protect them were they to return to England, and send their books here for simultaneous publication.

"A foreigner may transfer property in an unpublished book, as well as property in a patent medicine, to an American resident. If Mr. Dickens makes Mr. Irving a present of an unpublished novel, Mr. Irving will be protected, under the common law, in copyrighting that novel and enjoying the profits. We wonder that English authors do not avail themselves of the obvious protection, which they would thus secure. To make assurance doubly sure, let Mr. Irving (in the supposed case) be privileged to *edit* the aforesaid novel. His editorial emendations, however slight, appearing in both the English and American edition, he is protected doubly in the possession of the copyright.

"We think, however, that the subject is one well worthy the attention of Government. France and England have recently concluded a treaty for the interchange of protection to their authors; and why should not our Government be influenced by like considerations of justice and patriotism? We hope that as soon as Congress gets through with President making, it will take up this subject. Of the authors and scholars of the country, we believe that ninety-nine in a hundred would give their votes for an International Copyright Law, not only as a righteous measure, but as one advantageous to the country."—*From the Boston Evening Transcript of 29th April*, 1852.

Archæological Publications.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 8th May, 1852.

Dear Sir,—Permit me to inform you that Part ii. of Vol. IV. of the "Archæologia Æliana" is published and delivered to the members of our Society.

It is a most interesting one, and will stir up the interest felt here in the study of antiquities; and this notice, if published, will take the sting out of the fillip you have given us in your "Current Notes" for April, page 25.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Mr. Willis. David H. Wilson.

The Kilkenny Archæological Society.

Mr. Willis is informed that this Society, the proceedings of which appear in his "Current Notes" for April last, p. 26, with a ?, have published, besides circulating gratuitously a pamphlet supplying brief hints intended to promote the study of Antiquities, their Transactions for 1849 and 1850, extending to 267 pages, with upwards of twenty illustrations. The number of Members amounts to nearly 300, and when the very moderate subscription of five shillings per annum is considered, as much has been achieved as can reasonably be expected. The Rev. James Graves and Mr. John G. A. Prim, of Kilkenny, are the Honorary Secretaries.

Upon this communication G. W. begs to observe that the Kilkenny Archæological Association *is not included in the Rev. Dr. Hume's work on "the Learned Societies and Printing Clubs of the United Kingdom," and for this reason; Dr. Hume's publication, which supplied an important desideratum in our literature, appeared in* 1847, *while the Kilkenny Archæological Society was not instituted until the early part of the year* 1849. *But as a new and corrected edition will shortly appear, G. W. has much pleasure in recording any communications which may tend to its correction or improvement.*

Kilkenny, May 14, 1852.

Sir,—As I perceive you "?" the Kilkenny Archæological Society (not being, I suppose aware, from the local nature of the Society, of the fasciculi issued by it), I beg to inform you that there has been printed—

"Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, Vol. I. Parts 1 and 2, for the years 1849 and 1850. 8vo. Dublin."

Part 3, for 1851, completing the 1st vol. is in the press. I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. James Graves, Hon. Sec.

Archæological Societies and their Works.

Barnwell Rectory, Oundle, May 5th, 1852.

Sir,—I cannot but think "Anti-Socialist" has been very unjustly severe upon the Archæological Societies of the Midland Counties, in his letter inserted in your last number of "Current Notes," p. 29. Your Correspondent does not appear to understand the nature or object of Architectural or Archæological Societies. From his letter it would seem that he supposes them to be formed simply for the purpose of editing a book or books, whereas, I conceive, such Societies are formed for the purpose of *assisting* editors of books and of procuring curious Antiquarian information of all kinds, of bringing together in any neighbourhood the local intelligence, so that it may at a future time be embodied in permanent works of history or topography. When to these objects are added opportunities of giving direct architectural advice

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to church builders and restorers—sometimes even pecuniary assistance—we see at once that there is much more to be done than "Anti-Socialist" seems to imagine. The 'handsome octavo volume,' to which he alludes, is a very creditable production as "the Reports" of these Societies, but it pretends to be nothing more. Does your Correspondent, however, forget that, at the same time, every individual member of each of these Archæological Societies *may* be editing a book on his *own responsibility?* As an instance in point I will mention one. "The Handbook of the Cathedrals of England and Wales," advertised by Mr. Murray, as now in preparation by an individual member of *one* of these maligned societies, the Rev. G. A. Poole. No doubt 'Anti-Socialist' will be ready to subscribe his "couple of hundred pounds" towards this interesting work.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Mr. Willis. G. R. M. "ANTI-HUMBUG."

ARCHÆOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.

Hastings, April 29, 1852.

SIR,—The list of Antiquarian publications which appears in the last part of your "Current Notes," p. 25, is precisely the thing I have long been wanting. For instance, being from Scotland, I once ordered the Proceedings of the Antiquaries of Scotland, but my London bookseller told me the Society was altogether extinct, and in consequence no books had been printed for very many years. I thought it strange, as Scotland is full of Antiquities, both Roman and Mediæval. I also could never before understand the difference between the Archæological Association and Institute, and find I have been supplied with the works of the latter body instead of the former.

I am, Sir, yours obliged,

Mr. Willis. A SUBSCRIBER.

STERNE'S AUTOGRAPH.

162, Hope Street, Glasgow, 29th April, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—In a recent number of the "Current Notes," (January last, p. 2), a Correspondent, A. C. K. remarked the occurrence of Sterne's Autograph in one volume (the 7th) of Tristram Shandy. In my copy, 9 vols. small 8vo. published by P. A. Dehont, &c. Strand, London, a facsimile of the same autograph that you have engraved occurs no less than three times, namely, at the top of the first page of the 3rd, 5th, and 7th vols.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Mr. Willis. JAMES B. MURDOCK.

TRISTRAM SHANDY.

' 162, Hope Street, Glasgow, 12th May, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—On looking over some odd volumes the other day, I found a ninth volume of Tristram Shandy. The complete edition I have, with the three autographs mentioned in my note of the 29th ultimo, has nine volumes, so I thought this must be a duplicate copy of the ninth. On inspecting it, however, more closely, I see it has on the title-page, "second edition," and has a different publisher to the other. The Preface states that the author died in the year before this book is dated, but he claims the privilege of writing after he is dead, and the matter of the volume is totally different from the other ninth. Is this really Sterne's, or only an imitation? and if so, is the reason why he called it "ninth, second edition," known? In a collected edition of Sterne's works, I noticed a continuation of the "Sentimental Journey," by "Eugenius." Who is this Eugenius?

I remain, yours very truly,

Mr. Willis. JAMES B. MURDOCK.

THE WRECKS OF THE BIRKENHEAD AND SALDANHA.

24th April, 1825.

DEAR SIR,—By a most melancholy coincidence with the recent loss of the Birkenhead, I have this forenoon found in looking over some family papers the verses which you wished for respecting the loss of the Saldanha frigate, and I send them to you in the autograph of the author—Tom Sheridan—a dear and valued friend of the father of your

OLD CORRESPONDENT.

Mr. Willis.

"BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVES."—
Heard'st thou that dreadful roar?
Hark! 'tis bellowed from the caves,
Where Loch Swilly's billow raves—
And three hundred British graves
Taint the shore.

No voice of life was there—
'Tis the dead that raise the cry!
The dead—who heard no prayer
As they sunk in wild despair—
Chaunt in scorn that boastful air,
Where they lie.

"*Rule Britannia!*" sang the crew,
When the stout Saldanha sailed,
And her colours, as they flew,
Flung the warrior-cross to view,
Which in battle to subdue
Ne'er had failed.

Bright rose the laughing morn,
That morn, that sealed her doom;
Dark and sad is her return
And the storm-lights faintly burn
As they toss upon her stern,
'Mid the gloom.

From the lonely beacon height
As the watchmen gaz'd around
They saw that flashing light
Drive swift athwart the night
Yet the wind was fair and right
For the Sound.

But no mortal power shall now
That crew and vessel save;
They are shrouded as they go
In a hurricane of snow,
And the track beneath her prow
Was their grave.

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There are spirits of the deep,
  Who, when the warrant's given,
Rise raging from their sleep
On rock or mountain steep,
Or 'mid thunder-clouds that sweep
  Through the heaven.

O'er Swilly's rocks they soar
  Commissioned watch to keep.
Down, down with thundering roar,
The exulting demons pour;
The Saldanha floats no more
  On the deep.

The dread behest is past—
  All is silent as the grave;
One shriek was first and last,
Scarce a death-sob drunk the blast
As sunk her towering mast
  'Neath the wave.

"Britannia rules the waves!"
  Oh! vain and impious boast.
Go, mark, presumptuous slaves,
Where He who sinks or saves
Strews the sand with countless graves
  Round your coast.

William Denham.

36, Lincoln's Inn Fields, May 5, 1852.

Your correspondent, F. R. S. (Current Notes for April, p. 31,) is perhaps not aware of the brass to William Denham, goldsmith, who died 1583, aged 64, his wife, five sons, and ten daughters, at Thorpe, near Chertsey, Surrey. His arms are on it, viz, Gules, 3 lozenges ermine; impaling his wife's, Gules, a cross patonce, &c. &c. A copy of the inscription, which is very curious, is in Manning's Surrey, enlarged by Bray, vol. iii. pages 244 and 245, edition 1814. Thorpe Church was completely restored a few years ago, but this brass, and the brass plate in the stone underneath which refers to it, are left in the same position they formerly occupied, and are in very good preservation. I have never seen an engraving of the brass, and should like to know if any exists.

I am, your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. G. E. Adams.

P. S. I suppose Wm. Denham was of the same family as that of Sir John Denham the judge, who lived about a generation later, and was buried at Egham in Surrey, two and a half miles from Thorpe, being father of the poet of the same name. The books of the Goldsmith's Company would probably shew Wm. Denham's parentage.

Monumental Brass to William Denham.

Middle Temple, 13th May, 1852.

Sir,—I send you, for the information of your Correspondent F.R.S. ("Current Notes," for April, p. 31), a tracing of the Brass of William Denham, in Thorpe Church, from the woodcut in "Brayley and Britton's History of Surrey," vol. ii. p. 252, where it is stated that he died on the 31st August, 1583, aged 64.

The verses which are under this brass may be found in the same valuable work; and on a gravestone fronting this memorial is another brass, inscribed—

"William Denham, whose picture in ye wall
Ingraved in brass you see [*spye*]
Under this stone slepinge in Christe
In reste and pease dothe lye."

Mr. Willis. X. Y. Z.

Treasure Trove.—L. K. would be obliged by Mr. Willis informing him of the nature of the laws relating to Treasure Trove. In the April number of the "Gentleman's Magazine, p. 392, it is stated, that some important discoveries made in Scotland could not be reported "owing to the mischievous operation of the law of Treasure Trove in Scotland. L. K. would wish also to know if this law be the same in England as in Scotland.

10th May, 1852.

What is a W(*h*)ig?

A nasty false thing, that sticks to the Crown.

J. R.

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Mr. Meadley.

Durham, March 29, 1852.

Sir,—I can inform your Correspondent, H. K., whose enquiry about Mr. George Wilson Meadley, you have inserted in your "Current Notes" for this month, p 23, that he was born on the 1st January, 1774, at Sunderland, and educated at the Grammar School, Witton-le-Wear, in the county of Durham. In early life he visited Italy and afterwards resided for a short time in Germany, and on the neighbouring shores of the Baltic. His first work was a Memoir of his friend Dr. Paley, of which a second and enlarged edition appeared in 1810. One volume 8vo., and his last, if I remember correctly, Memoirs of Algernon Sydney, 8vo. 1813.

I remain, Sir, your humble servant,
W. S. G.

Newcastle, April 5, 1852.

Sir,—Your Correspondent, H. K., will find a Memoir of Mr. Meadley, of Bishopwearmouth, in the Gentleman's Magazine for Dec. 1818, Vol. lxxxviii. pl. 2, page 568.

I am, yours respectfully,
Wm. Dodd.

The late Mr. George Wilson Meadley was an independent gentleman, residing at Bishopwearmouth, (Sunderland). He was the friend and biographer of Dr. Paley. He also published a *Memoir of Algernon Sydney; a Letter to the Bishop of St. David's, or some extraordinary Passages in a Charge delivered to his Clergy in September*, 1818; *Memoirs of Mrs. Jebb*, and two or three minor articles of biography. At the time of his death, which happened in November, 1818, in the 45th year of his age, he was engaged in collecting materials for a *Life of John Hampden*, and a *Memoir of the Rev. Dr. Disney*. In religious sentiments Mr. Meadley was an Unitarian. He was one of the founders of the Sunderland Subscription Library, of which he was a most active member; a marble tablet, to his memory, is placed in the principal room of the institution, and was erected by the resolution of a General Meeting called for that purpose. A more detailed account of this gentleman may be seen in Garbutt's *History of Sunderland*.

G.

British Museum, April 13, 1852.

Sir,—I beg to inform your Correspondent, H. K., that George Wilson Meadley was the author of the following works:—Memoirs of Dr. Paley, Sunderland, 8vo. 1809; Memoirs of Mrs. Jebb, Widow of Dr. Jebb, London, 1812; A Sketch of the various proposals for a Constitutional Reform in the representation of the people introduced into Parliament from 1770 to 1812; Memoirs of Algernon Sydney, 8vo. London, 1813; Memoirs of Robert Clarke, Sunderland, 1815; A short obituary of his literary friend Dr. Disney of the Hyde, Essex, 1817; Controversy with Bishop Burgess on the Bill repealing various penalties against impugners of the Doctrine of the Trinity; A Letter to the Bishop of St. David's on some extraordinary passages in a charge to his Clergy, by a Lay Seceder, 1814. Besides contributing several Articles to the Gentleman's Magazine he wrote a curious pamphlet entitled "Two pairs of Historical Portraits, Cæsar and Pitt, Rienzi and Buonaparte;" and a Biographical Notice of William Henry Lambton, Esq., whom he had known at Naples. Mr. Meadley died at Bishopwearmouth, after a short but severe illness, November 28, 1818, aged 45.

There is a short sketch of him in the Gentleman's Magazine, from which we glean that "his memory was so tenacious that he could recall the details of any event, or the contents of any book which had ever engaged his attention," and that "he had perhaps read more than any man of his years." "In opinions he appears to have been liberal. In his manner and deportment there were certain peculiarities which frequently accompany studious habits. In his general habits he was cheerful and communicative, in domestic life, a warm friend, a kind brother, and an affectionate son."

A Bookworm.

Shovel Board.

New York, 13th April, 1852.

The game is played on a table or board about 40 feet long and 18 inches wide. It is made of clean white pine without knots, and fine sand is sifted all over, to enable the players to *shovel* their pieces along. On each side of the board there are narrow troughs or gutters, to catch the pieces if they fly off, which they very frequently do. The game is played by two persons, who have each four pieces, numbered 1 to 4. The pieces are of brass, exactly the size and form of half pound flat weights. A line is marked across the board, about half a foot from the farther extremity, and the art is to discharge the piece from the hand with just sufficient force to go beyond the line, which counts *so many*; but if the piece lies half *off* and half *on* the farther end it counts double. But to do that requires great skill and long practice. The players play off their pieces alternately, and the chief effort is to knock the antagonist's piece from the table. They stand close to the end of the board, holding the piece firmly between the fingers and thumb, and, after giving the hand three or four rapid whirls, from right to left, the piece is discharged, with what may be judged sufficient force to reach the end of the board without flying off. I regret to say the game is getting into disuse, as the board requires a long room, and ground is very valuable in New York. But if any of your friends thought of erecting a shovel board, I shall have the greatest pleasure in sending you a correct drawing and exact measurements. Such a nobleman, for instance, as Lord Londesborough, who is a liberal patron of antiquity, might easily erect a fine shovel board in one of the galleries of his noble castle; and why might not our beloved Queen have one in Windsor Castle? You know that an "Edward Shovel Board" is mentioned in the Merry Wives! I would also, with equal pleasure, send a set of the

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eight pieces, with the regular Rules of the Game. I suppose I have said enough for the present. With my sincere thanks for your information about Queen Mary's ring, although I should like to know *for certain* where it is,

I am, yours faithfully,

R. B.

A Punic Signet.

Southwick Vicarage, near Oundle,
May 3rd, 1852.

Sir,—The accompanying sketch is copied from "Gesenii Monumenta Phœnicia," pars 3, tab. 14, fig. 45; the four letters of which are in pars 1, p. 161, translated thus:—"צבדא id vero appellative accipiendum existimat, sive *cultum* sive *cultorem* denotet."

The true sense of the word on this signet is *Servus;* and by referring to the prophet Isaiah lii. 13; ix. 6; Genesis xlix. 9, 10; and Revelation v. 5, we obtain the following translation, which will also serve as a key to the reading of very many of the *most ancient* Egyptian monuments; they being composed, for the most part, of *a mixture* of alphabetic letters and symbols.

"*The servant* of God, *the lion* of the tribe of Judah, *shall bear the government upon his shoulder.*"

The signet must have been engraved soon after the time of Isaiah, as the letters are the same as those of the celebrated Atlantic or Ogygian Tablet of the Deluge.

The Egyptian, &c. monuments teach us that the circle, when applied, as in this place, denotes frequently both the *spiritual* kingdom on earth and the *eternal* kingdom in heaven.

Mr. Willis. T. R. Brown.

American Shaksperian Club.—At a complimentary dinner given on the 23rd April (Shakspere's birthday) in New York to Mr. Burton, the formation of a club under the above name and presidentship of "rare Bill Burton" was determined upon.

Mr. Burton, the Garrick of the American stage, was educated at Cambridge, in the same college where Milton matriculated, and possesses, what it is confidently believed no other man in America can produce, not only the *first*, but the four first folios of Shakspere, besides many of the plays in quarto.

Shakspere's Will.

Pall Mall, Travellers' Club, 17th May, 1852.

Mr. Willis, will you tell me why, if you wish to see any will, except *one* at Doctors' Commons, the charge for doing so is one shilling; but in the case of this one exception, I believe, and I should like to "know the reason why," the demand made for an inspection of Shakspere's will is two shillings?

A Barrister and a Cornish man.

Bust of Shakspere.—G. W. is informed that by reference to the Dramatic Register, for 1851, the receipt of which he acknowledged in his Current Notes of last month, he will find that the Bust of Shakspere was bought by Mr. Lacy, the theatrical bookseller, at the sale of the Cottingham Museum, on the third November last for £5. It was understood to be forwarded to the United States.

"Paradise of Coquettes."

Edinburgh, 27th April, 1852.

Sir,—Lord Jeffrey, writing to his father-in-law, Mr. Wilkes, in 1815, writes thus:—There has just appeared a little poem, called the 'Paradise of Coquettes;' author unknown. More Popian than anything since Pope."—*Cockburn's Life of Jeffrey*, Vol. ii. p. 147.'

Can any of your correspondents inform me who the author of the "Paradise of Coquettes" was?

Yours respectfully,

Mr. Willis. W. G.

Trade Dispute between the Publishers and Booksellers.

Edinburgh, 12th May.

An Author and possessor of some literary property presents his compliments to Mr. Willis, and begs to acquaint him that, so far as the interests of literature are regarded, or those of the author respected, the real question is between

"Tweedle dum and Tweedle Dee."

"Free Trade," *on the same subject, requires consideration. It is too personal in many respects.*

Franks and Franking.

May 1, 1852.

Sir,—Is there any work that will give me a brief and correct account of franks and franking?

My chief object is to know the earliest period of its having taken place, as well as the various forms adopted, for I perceive they are rather numerous.

Your polite attention to my request will greatly oblige,

"A Modern Collector."

Mr. Willis.

Rembrandt's print of Christ healing the Sick in the Temple is usually called the hundred guilder print, on account of his valuing it at that price. When complete, it measures $15\frac{2}{10}$ inches long by 11 inches wide, and as it is by far the best of Rembrandt's works is worth, according to its state, from ten to two hundred and fifty guineas. After being long mislaid, the plate was discovered about seventy years since in Holland by Captain Baillie, an excellent amateur artist, who finding it very much corroded, retouched it himself, and took off a few impressions, which may be obtained at about thirty shillings each. He then cut the plate into four pieces, of which the print sent by G. W.'s correspondent, "H. K. T." is the largest, and contains the principal group in the composition.

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Lord Brougham's opinion upon the State of France.

"The French nation is at present slumbering; but when it awakes, let Louis Napoleon stick a pin in his nose and look sharp."

☞

Wierx, the Engraver.

Tuesday, 27th April, 1852.

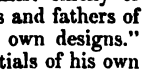
Sir,—Your Correspondent W. W. C. ("Current Notes," p. 29) will find an account of Jerome (Hieronymus) Wierx, and a Catalogue of four hundred of his works, in the twenty-first volume of "Nagler's Künstler Lexicon," printed last year.

Your most obedient,

Mr. Willis. W. H. C.

Wierx.

Somerset House, May 1st, 1852.

Sir,—If your correspondent, W. W. C. will refer to Bryan's Dictionary of Engravers he will find a good account of Hieronimus or Jerome Wierx. Bryan, who seems to have chiefly copied Strutt, informs us that he was born at Amsterdam, 1552. "He is supposed to have learnt the art of engraving from his brother John, whose style he imitated so exactly that it would be difficult to distinguish their works if they were not differently marked. They are executed in the same neat and finished style, and characterised by the same stiffness and formality. His prints consist chiefly of devotional and allegorical subjects, saints and fathers of the church, many of which are from his own designs." They are sometimes marked with the initials of his own name, thus:—Hi. W. or Hi. W. F. or I. Hieronimus W. Fe. and sometimes with this monogram 

The following are his principal works:—

Portraits.—Emperor Charlemagne; Henry of Bourbon, King of Navarre; Queen Elizabeth; Sir Francis Drake; Sigismund III. King of Poland; Alexander Farnese Duke of Parma.

Subjects from his own designs.—St. Cecilia; Temptation of St. Anthony; St. Bruno; St. Charles Borromeo; the Virgin and Infant Christ with St. Francis and St. Anthony; Crucifixion; Death of Lucretia; the Virgin and Infant, with a glory of angels.

Subjects after various masters.—Christ dead, supported on the lap of the Virgin, after Mabuse; Christ calling to him the Little Children, after C. Van de Brock; the death of the Virgin, after Otho Vænius; Christ at table in the house of Simon the Pharisee, after the same; Christ crowned with thorns, after G. Mostaert; the Four Doctors of the Church, after M. Lucas Romanus; Scourging of Christ, after the same (according to Strutt one of his best prints); Baptism of Christ by St. John, after Hondius; Vision of Daniel, after Van Haecht, &c. &c.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. Helluo Librorum.

Enquiry respecting an Engraving.

May 10th, 1852.

Sir,—An engraving of a curious kind has lately fallen into my hands which I may thus describe:—It is divided into four compartments. One, the upper left hand one, has two Egyptian obelisks and devices. The corresponding one to the right has a lady, and apparently her maid. The lady's back is adorned with a spade, and the bottom of her dress also has the same device of spades, some with coats of arms. In the third compartment on the right hand a lady is represented kneeling with the coronet of a marquis, and an open book before her supported by the ace of hearts. The fourth compartment represents two knights engaged in a sword combat; the back ground of this part of the print has a Gothic arch like that of a church, with accompaniments. There is no date to the print, nor publisher's name. It is in 8vo. Probably it is a satirical print upon some one of the female *noblesse*. Can any of your readers give me any clue to the meaning? If so it will oblige a

Constant Reader.

Mr. Willis.

Mrs. Boddington.

Sir,—As one of the readers of your "Current Notes" for April, I can readily supply the information requested by your Correspondent W. at p. 31. Mary Boddington was the daughter of Patrick Comerford, a Cork merchant, and niece of Sir William Glendowe Newcomen. She was born at Cork in 1776, and having married in 1803, Mr. Boddington, a West India merchant, left her native city. After the peace of 1815, Mrs. Boddington travelled much on the Continent, and the result of her observations have been communicated to the public in the agreeable works mentioned by your Correspondent, and which were published, I believe, by Messrs. Longman and Co.

Mr. Willis. I. V. T.

The Percy Society is no more, and the adjustment of its pecuniary affairs somewhat extraordinary, as every member will, beyond having a sum of money returned to him, and receiving two books, for his annual subscription of £1. be supplied with a duplicate set of books, for which G. W. will be happy to give that sum.

The number of issues by the Percy Society during the time of its existence (twelve years) is no less than ninety-three, and another will appear with title-pages, &c. &c. edited by W. H. Black, Esq. Assistant-Keeper of the Public Records of England.

These ninety-four issues have been, in most instances, gratuitously contributed and edited by twenty members of the Percy Society, and it appears that out of this number, five members, or one-fourth of the number of the editors, had produced exactly two-thirds of the number of books issued by the Society, namely—Mr. J. O. Halliwell, 22; Mr. Wright, 14; Mr. Payne Collier, 10; Mr. Crofton Croker, 9; Mr. Fairholt, 7; when its most honourable dissolution was determined upon by the noble President, Lord Braybrooke.

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English Tomb at Athens.

The following inscriptions, copied from the tombstone of three Englishmen who died at Athens, have been sent to Dr. Winterbottom, of South Shields, by a very interesting and talented Greek girl, Elizabeth Contaxaki, the adopted daughter of the Rev. John (and Mrs.) Hill, Chaplain to the British Embassy at Athens. "The tomb stands," Miss C. observes, "in the burying-ground of a small chapel, called Αγια Φωτεινα, St. Lucia, which formerly made part of the Christian burying-ground, and where, it would appear, the deceased were buried by special licence. The chapel stands in front of the Ιερον βημα, by the banks of the Ilissus stream, close to the rocks near the ducts or pipes, of the Enneakrounos. The slab of marble looks as if it has never been moved since the day it was first placed there. Mr. Hill proposes to apply to the Greek Government for the permission to remove the remains, with the stone, to the Protestant Cemetery, opposite to the Stadium." Miss C. adds a benevolent wish, that "if any of the descendants of the deceased be still alive, it may afford them pleasure to hear that the remains of their deceased relations, after 167 years, have been taken care of by a Chaplain of the English Embassy at Athens."

Could any readers of the "Current Notes," point out where the names of the Consuls may be found, and also whether any epidemic raged at Athens about that period?*

ΓΕΟΡΤΙΟΖ ΤΟΥ ΙΓΓΑΕΖΟΥ.

[Here a burning heart.] ΧΑΙΡΕ.

HERE RESTS IN HOPE OF A RESVRECTION THE BODY OF GEORGE STOAKS BORN AT LIMEHOVSE IN LONDON WHO AFTER NIGH SEVEN YEARS APPRENTICESHIP IN ATHENS VNTO CONSVLL LANCELOT HORSON AND LEARNING THE ITALIAN GREEKE AND TVRKISH LANGVAGES DYED THE SIXTH AVGVST 1685 IN THE TWENTY FOVRTH YEAR OF HIS AGE VNTO THE INEXPRESSIBLE GRIEF OF THE SAID PATRON WHO HATH ERECTED THIS MONVMENT OVT TRVE RESPECT TO THE DECEASED'S MEMORY.

. . . . . THE BODIES OF CAPTAIN THOMAS ROBERTS COMMANDER OF SHIP RECOMPENCE OF YARMOVTH WHO DYED AT PORTO LEONE THE TWENTYETH OF MAY 1685.

ALSO CAPTAIN WILLIAM FEARN COMMANDER OF THE VNITY BRIG OF LONdon WHO DYED AT SAID PORT THE TWENTYSIXTH JVLY 1685.

* G. W. *has no doubt that the Archives of the Foreign Office, which probably have been transferred to the State Paper Office, would supply this information.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. B. New York, 13th April. Lot 116, in March Catalogue sold. If applied to, it would be very ungracious, after the communications made to the lady named, should her publisher refuse complying with the request; but certain Trade reasons oblige G. W. to decline making it.

"A Subscriber," *Reform Club.* April 12, (with extract from *Daily News*) requires enquiry, but will receive respectful attention.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Allason, Thomas. "Antiquities of Pola," &c. Architect—additions to Alton Towers, Alliance Fire Office in Bartholomew Lane, &c. Connaught Square. 9th April. Aged 62.

Bissett, Rev. John Collinson, (Vicar of Leysdown cum Harty, Sheppey). "The Conquest of China," a Poem. 22nd April.

Bremner, David. Engineer, Clyde Trust. Glasgow. 14th March. Aged 33.

Carpenter, James. Publisher and Bookseller, (late of Old Bond Street). Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood. 30th March. Aged 84.

Cochrane, John George. Secretary and Librarian to the London Library. 12, St. James's Square. 4th May. Aged 71.

Dalrymple, John, F.R.S. Oculist and Scientific Writer. 60, Grosvenor Street. 2nd May. Aged 49.

Downes, Henry (Commander R.N.) Founder and Director of the United Service Institution. Ladbroke Terrace, Notting Hill. 3rd April. Aged 62.

Eylert. First Bishop of Prussia. Theology. Potsdam. Aged 82.

Fletcher, Rev. William (Vicar of Harwell, Berks). "Excursions of a Village Curate," &c. Malmesbury. 24th March. Aged 58.

Forster, Frank. Engineer, Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers. Elm Lodge, Kilburn. 13th April. Aged 52.

Gilbert, Richard. (Firm of Messrs. Gilbert and Rivington, Printers, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell). "Liber Scholasticus." Editor of Clerical Compilations; one of the Auditors of the Royal Literary Fund. Euston Square. 26th February. Aged 58.

Huntingtower, Catherine Rebecca (Dowager) Lady. (3rd daughter of Francis Grey, Esq. of Lehena, County of Cork, and mother of the Earl of Dysart). Poetry. Leamington Spa. 21st March. Aged 85.

Jewitt, Arthur. Topography and Periodical Literature. Headington, near Oxford. 7th March. Aged 80.

Kelly, Mrs. Ann. Actress. Lewisham, Kent. 15th March. Aged 103.

O'Connor, Arthur, (General in the French Service.) Politics. Bignon Montargis, France. 25th April. Aged 89.

Payne, Howard. Dramatist and Actor. Recently.

Ritterdon, Samuel. Surveyor of Shipping to the East India Company and H. M. Commissioners for the South Australian Colonies. Billiter Street. 3rd April. Aged 57.

Walckanaer, The Baron de. Secretary of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres of Paris. Biography, &c. Recently.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XVIII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [JUNE, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

LITERARY RESIDENCES AT NORTH END, FULHAM.

THE house of Richardson, the once popular Novelist, but whose Pamela — Clarissa Harlowe and Sir Charles Grandison, though translated into French, and German, and Dutch, are now almost mere waste paper upon a bookseller's shelf —whose Correspondence has been published in six volumes, illustrated by Caroline Watson's exquisite engraving of Richardson, and which six volumes may now be had for about as many shillings, resided for several years in a mansion of William III.'s period, the appearance of which may be recognised from the annexed sketch, by any one of the readers of Mr. Willis's Notes, who will turn off at the second turnpike gate on the road to Hammersmith, and enquire his way to Walham Green. How little the exterior has been altered in nearly the last fifty years, a comparison of your Correspondent's sketch with the print prefixed to the 4th volume of Richardson's Correspondence will shew at a glance. My sketch was made in a very recent ramble, and Sir Richard Phillips's print was published by him May 26, 1804. Then, as now, this mansion was divided into two houses, and the half nearest to the eye was that occupied by the Novelist, the other half was the residence of a Mr. Vanderplank, a name which frequently occurs in Richardson's Correspondence. The recent inhabitants of Richardson's house were the late Sir William and Lady Boothby, a favourite actress, better known to the public as Mrs. Nisbett.

The perusal of Richardson's Correspondence, which I perceive I have purchased from you for 7*s* 6*d*, induced me to seek out the locality, and from this very voluminous Correspondence I think a few extracts may interest the readers of your Notes.

One of the most romantic incidents in the business-like and hospitable life of Richardson, was his correspondence with, and introduction to, Lady Bradshaigh, the wife of a Lancashire Baronet, whom he sought to seduce to visit him at North End. After the appearance of the fourth volume of Clarissa Harlowe, a lady who signed herself Belfour, wrote to Richardson, stating a report that prevailed, that the history of Clarissa was to terminate in a most tragical manner, and requesting that her entreaties may avert so dreadful a catastrophe.

This correspondence with Mrs. Belfour commenced in October 1748, and she thus concludes her letter to the novelist, her Ladyship taking care to mystify her identity by giving her address, Post Office, Exeter, although resident at Haigh in Lancashire. "If you disappoint me," she writes, "attend to my curse."

"May the hatred of all the young, beautiful, and virtuous for ever be your portion, and may your eyes never behold any thing but age and deformity! May you meet with applause only from envious old maids, surly bachelors, and tyrannical parents; may you be doomed to the company of such! and after death may their ugly souls haunt you!

"Now make Lovelace and Clarissa unhappy if you dare.

"Perhaps you may think all this proceeds from a giddy girl of sixteen; but know I am past my romantic time of life, though young enough to wish two lovers happy in a married state. As I myself am in that class, it makes me still more anxious for the lovely pair. I have a common understanding, and middling judgment, for one of my sex, which I tell you for fear you should not find it out."

The Correspondence thus commenced goes on, until the vanity of Richardson induces him to describe to his unknown Correspondent his private circumstances; and to a hint given in the January following by Lady Bradshaigh, of her intention to visit London before she is a year older, when she "shall long to see" Mr. Richardson, and "perhaps may contrive *that*, though unknown to him," he replies,—

"But do not, my dear correspondent (still let me call you so) say, that you will see me, *unknown to myself*, when you come to town. Permit me to hope, that you will not be personally a stranger to me then."

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This is followed by an acknowledgment from Madame Belfour, that she is not his "Devonshire lady," having but very little knowledge of the place, though she has a friend there; observing archly, "*Lancashire*, if you please;" adding an invitation, if he is inclined to take a journey of two hundred miles, with the promise of "a most friendly reception from two persons who have great reason to esteem" him "a very valuable acquaintance."

Richardson responded to this invitation by another—

"But I will readily come into any proposal you shall make, to answer the purpose of your question; and if you will be so cruel as to keep yourself still incognito, will acquiesce. I wish you would accept of our invitation on your coming to town. *But three little miles from Hyde Park Corner*. I keep no vehicle,"

(This was before the age of busses.)

—"but one should be at yours, and at your dear man's command, as long as you should both honour us with your presence. You shall be only the sister, the cousin, the niece—the what you please of my incognito, and I will never address you as other than what you choose to pass for. If you knew, Madam, you would not question that I am in earnest on this occasion; the less question it, as that at my little habitation near Hammersmith, I have common conveniences, though not splendid ones, to make my offer good."

Richardson in the letter, from which this passage has been extracted, is again led away by his vanity into a description of his person, and very plainly hints at a meeting in the Park, through which he goes "once or twice a week to" his "little retirement." He describes himself as

"Short, rather plump than emaciated, about five foot five inches; fair wig; lightish cloth coat, all black besides; one hand generally in his bosom, the other a cane in it, which he leans upon under the skirts of his coat usually, that it may imperceptibly serve him as a support, when attacked by sudden tremors or startings and dizziness." * * "Of a light brown complexion; teeth not yet failing him; smoothish faced and ruddy cheeked; at sometimes looking to be about sixty-five, at other times much younger; a regular even pace, stealing away ground, rather than seeming to get rid of it; a grey eye, too often overclouded by mistiness from the head; by chance lively—very lively it will be if he have hope of seeing a lady whom he loves and honours; his eye always on the ladies"—and so on.

In return to this description Lady Bradshaigh on the 16th December, 1749, half promises a meeting in an appointed place, for she tells the elderly gentleman with "a grey eye, too often overclouded by mistinesses from the head," but "by chance lively," "that she will attend the Park every fine warm day, between the hours of one and two. I do not," adds this perfect specimen of a literary coquette,

"Say this to put you in the least out of your way, or make you stay a moment longer than your business requires; for a walk in the Park is an excuse she uses for her health; and as she designs staying some months in town, if she misses you one day she may have luck another."

And Lady Bradshaigh proceeds to present, as if in ridicule of Richardson's portrait as drawn by himself, her own.

"In surprise or eagerness she is apt to think aloud; and since you have a mind to see *her*, who has seen the King, I give you the advantage of knowing she is middle aged, middle sized, a degree above plump, brown as an oak wainscot, a good deal of country red in her cheeks; altogether a plain woman, but nothing remarkably forbidding."

Any one might think that a meeting would immediately have followed these communications, and that the novel writer and the novel reader would have presented themselves to each other's gaze for admiration, at the time and place appointed, and thus the affair which their letters have left upon record might have been satisfactorily wound up in one volume. But this did not accord with the sentimental typographical taste of the times, which required the dilution of an idea into seven or eight volumes to make it palateable. For we are told that a young Cantab, who, when asked if he had read Clarissa, replied, "D—n it, I would not read it, though to save my life," was set down as an incurable dunce. And that a lady reading to her maid, whilst she curled her hair, the seventh volume of Clarissa, the poor girl let fall such a shower of tears that they wetted her mistress's head so much, she had to send her out of the room to compose herself. Upon the maid being asked the cause of her grief, she said, "Oh, Madam, to see such goodness and innocence in such distress," and her lady rewarded her with a crown for the answer.

January the 9th (1749-50) has arrived—the tantalizing Lady Bradshaigh, the unknown Mrs. Belfour, has been in London six weeks, and the novelist begins "not to know what to think" of his fair correspondent's wish to see him. "May be so," he writes,

"But with such a desire to be in town three weeks; on the 16th December to be in sight of my dwelling, and three weeks more to elapse, yet I neither to see or hear of the lady; it cannot be that she has so strong a desire?"

Let any one imagine the ridiculousness of the situation of "dear, good, excellent Mr. Richardson" at this time. He had, he confesses,

"Such a desire to see one who had seen the King, that" (he speaking of himself, says) "though prevented by indisposition from going to my little retirement on the Saturday, that I had the pleasure of your letter, I went into the Park on Sunday (it being a very fine day) in hopes of seeing such a lady as you describe, contenting myself with dining as I walked, on a sea biscuit which I had put in my pocket, my family at home, all the time, knowing not what was become of me.—A Quixotte!

"Last Saturday, being a fine warm day, in my way to North End, I walked backwards and forwards in the Mall, till past your friend's time of being there (she preparing, possibly, for the Court, being Twelfth Night!) and I again was disappointed."

On the 28th January, nineteen days after this was written, Lady Bradshaigh, in a letter full of satirical

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banter, which, however, it may be questionable if Richardson did not receive as replete with the highest compliments to his genius, says,

"Indeed, Sir, I resolved, if ever I came to town, to find out your haunts, if possible, and I have not 'said any thing that is not,' nor am at all naughty in this respect, for I give you my word, endeavours have not been wanting. You never go to public places. I knew not where to look for you (without making myself known) except in the Park, which place I have frequented most warm days. Once I fancied I met you; I gave a sort of a fluttering start, and surprised my company; but presently recollected you would not deceive me by appearing in a grey, instead of a whitish coat; besides the cane was wanting, otherwise I might have supposed you in mourning."

Could any thing exceed this touch about "a grey, instead of a whitish coat," except the finishing one of the "mole upon your left cheek?"

"To be sure on the Saturday you mention, I was dressing for court, as you supposed, and have never been in the Park upon a Sunday; but you cannot be sure that I have not seen you. How came I to know that you have a mole upon your left cheek? But not to make myself appear more knowing than I am, I'll tell you, Sir, that I have only seen you in effigy, in company with your Clarissa at Mr. Highmore's, where I design making you another visit shortly."

All this and much more is followed by a most tantalizing and puzzling P.S. to poor Richardson. His fair, or rather "brown as an oak wainscot, with a good deal-of-country-red in her cheeks" correspondent, requests him "to direct only to C. L., and enclose it to Miss J., to be left at Mrs. G.'s," &c. &c., previously observing that, "whenever there happens to be a fine Saturday I shall look for you in the Park, that being the day on which I suppose you are called that way."

Roused into desperation, Richardson on the 2nd February writes to Mrs. Belfour as follows:

"What pains does my unkind correspondent take to conceal herself! Loveless thought himself at liberty to change names without act of parliament. I wish, Madam, that Lovelace—'A sad dog,' said a certain lady once, 'why was he made so wicked, yet so agreeable?'

"Disappointed and chagrined as I was on Friday night with the return of my letter, directed to Miss J——, rejected and refused to be taken in at Mrs. G——'s, and with my servant's bringing me word that the little book I sent on Thursday night, with a note in it, was also rejected; and the porter (whom I have never since seen or heard of, nor of the book) dismissed with an assurance that he must be wrong; my servant being sent from one Mrs. G—— to another Mrs. G—— at Millbank; yet I resolved to try my fortune on Saturday in the Park in my way to North End. The day indeed, thought I, is not promising; but where so great an earnestness is professed, and the lady possibly by this time made acquainted with the disappointment she has given me, who knows but she will be carried in a chair to the Park, to make me amends, and there reveal herself? Three different chairs at different views saw I. My hope therefore not so very much out of the way; but in none of them the lady I wished to see. Up the Mall walked I down the Mall, and up again, in my way to North End. O this dear Will-o'-wisp, thought I! when nearest, furthest off! Why should I, at this time of life? No bad story, the consecrated rose, say what she will: and all the spiteful things I could think of I muttered to myself. And how, Madam, can I banish them from my memory, when I see you so very careful to conceal yourself; when I see you so very apprehensive of my curiosity, and so very little confiding in my generosity? O Madam! you know me not! you will not know me!

"Yesterday, at North End, your billet, apologizing for the disappointment was given me. Lud! lud! what a giddy appearance, thought I. O that I had half the life, the spirit! of any thing worth remembering I could make memorandums.

"Shall I say all I thought? I will not. But if these at last reach your hands, take them as written, as they were, by Friday night, and believe me to be,

Madam,

Your admirer and humble servant,

S. Richardson."

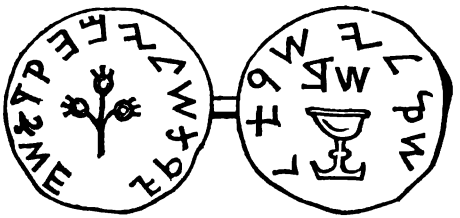
Here for the present I will end my abstracts; but should Mr. Willis consider them to be sufficiently amusing to print in his Current Notes, he may depend upon again hearing about Lady Bradshaigh and the Literary Residences of North End, from his

Unknown Correspondent.

4th June, 1852.

A Phœnician Coin.

Sir,—I send you the last, I believe, of the ancient coins in Kitto's Bib. Cyc. vol. ii, p. 354, which seems to require an elucidation.



The words on the left side of the coin are, Hnu Dk Hmign Ihri, and may be translated, *The crooked rod* (crozier) *of the Prince of the Magi.* I will not *determine* whether Moses or Aaron is here meant: I think the former; for most assuredly the Magi were considered as both *prophets* and *priests.* I am also inclined to think, from the three-beaked capsule (see Kitto, p. 833), that it was made of the *buxus* sempervirens, and was not the same as Aaron's rod. The crozier is a most ancient *spiritual* symbol, examples of which are frequent in the inscriptions of Babylon, Nineveh, Persepolis, and Egypt, &c.

The words on the right side of the coin are, U Arni Lkn, and may be translated, *And the cup* (censer) *of Aaron.* The form of the censer seems to explain the

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basket-like vessel in the hand of a priest. Vid. Kæmpfer's Amœnitates, p. 355; and frequently in sculptures from Nineveh, &c.

The date is Phn, *i.e.* ם 800 + ן 700 = 1500, reckoning from the Deluge; therefore,

Coin 1500 from the Deluge.
Exodus 858 do.

Coin 642 after the Exodus.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
T. R. Brown.

Southwick Vicarage, Oundle,
May 28th, 1852.

P.S. Erratum in No. for May 1852, p. 38. For צבדא, *read* עבדא, *obda*.

Tradesmen's Tokens.

Priory Road, Wandsworth Road,
2nd June, 1852.

Sir,—The communications that have appeared in your "Current Notes" respecting the Tokens of the 17th Century, seem to have excited considerable interest. Permit me to add a few remarks.

Mr. Boyne, of Leeds, in his interesting notices in your April No., calculates the number of Tokens at 40,000; but I have a notion that double that quantity would be nearer the mark—and for the following reasons. They were first brought into use, and circulated, by the Tavern Keepers and Coffee Houses; they are noticed by the Dramatists of the day, particularly by Shadwell, as "Tavern Tokens;" and Evelyn's words are "which every Tavern and Tippling House presumed to stamp and utter." Supposing then, that only one-half of the Taverns of England issued these pieces (and Taverns at that time were more abundant in proportion to the population than now), I conceive that Taverns alone would supply an amount nearly equal to Mr. Boyne's calculation. But as every collector knows that the Tokens of other traders prevail in the proportion of four to one, I think it would be a *moderate* estimate if we doubled Mr. Boyne's number. No perfect series ever was, or perhaps ever can be, formed. The late Matthew Young, the extensive coin dealer, purchased a cabinet containing more than 20,000 varieties, amassed by one collector; the wonder is, not that so many have been lost, but that so many have been preserved. As to London Tokens, their name is "Legion;" and the 2461 published by Mr. Akerman are not a quarter of the estimated number; but publishing reasons prevented a more bulky or costly volume.

I can hardly agree with Mr. Boyne that Tokens "have met with unmerited contempt from some of our ablest antiquaries;" I know no one that ever treated them with scorn, except the pedantic Pinkerton, and he never sought to learn their utility and interest. Your eminent namesake, Browne Willis, was an ardent collector of them. The late Robert Surtees, the Historian of Durham, made an extensive collection of those of *Northumberland* and *Durham*. The late Mr. Staunton collected largely for *Warwickshire*, and they are still in the possession of his family at Longbridge House, near Warwick. The late Sir George Chetwynd collected for the same county, which collection is possessed by the present Baronet. Capt. W. H. Smyth, Director of the Society of Antiquaries, published a most able paper on the Tokens of *Bedfordshire*. Mr. Salt, the eminent Banker of Lombard Street, is collecting those issued in *Staffordshire;* and Dr. Diamond has many hundreds appertaining to *Kent*. These are but a few of the County Collectors I could name. Indeed, to the County Historian they are useful topographically, genealogically and heraldically.

As an example of their utility, I may refer to one of *Soho*, which I published in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for March, 1850, struck 18 years previous to the Battle of Sedgemoor; correcting the error, so widely circulated by Pennant, that the name originated in the pass-word used by the Duke of Monmouth on that occasion. My account of the origin of Tokenhouse Yard has been adopted by Cunningham in his second edition of the "Hand Book of London."

Your Dublin Correspondent, K. L., has drawn attention to Dr. Aquila Smith's valuable "Catalogue of Tokens current in Ireland, between 1637 and 1679." There is an important error in this Title, for no Tokens were struck in Ireland until 1653. Dr. Smith, with whom I have the honour to correspond, is now, I believe well convinced that the 1637 Coin is a blundered one of 1657. There is no difficulty in crediting that the upper limb of 5, by turning it the reverse way, would become, a 3. Nor is it likely that Ireland would take the lead of England in this species of coinage, and the earliest dated in England are of 1648. It is remarkable that the year most prolific of Tokens, was that of the "Great Fire," and the Plague, 1666. In 1672 they were suppressed by an Order in Council, not because of "the great loss to the public" (for they were professedly issued for public convenience, in the absence of any small currency provided by the State), but because Government in that year had resolved upon a large issue of copper money, which required the abolition of Tokens. Bristol was fined £200 for issuing Town-pieces after that Order, and Gloucester was mulcted in a similar sum. In Ireland, they appear to have continued until 1679, probably because the law operated less efficiently there, or the new coinage found its way slowly to some of the remoter districts.

Mr. Willis. B. Nightingale.

P.S. I think Mr. Boyne will find a Token bearing the Arms of the Commonwealth, described in "Akerman's London Tokens," No. 812, p. 93, issued by John Ward in New Gravel Lane.

Regarding his other question as to whether Tradesmen's Tokens were issued in Scotland during the 17th century, I think we may safely conclude that they were not, at least none are known. During eighteen years experience in collecting I never met with a single specimen, nor do I know any collector that ever saw

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one. I imagine the solution of this may be found in the fact that they were not needed, for the Scotch had had since the time of James VI. an abundance of copper and *Billon* money (hence *Bawbee*, a corruption of *bas billon*), while in England a similar coinage, the introduction of which had been frequently attempted previous to the reign of Charles I., was repudiated by the public as base or *black money*. James VI. coined three hundred stone weight of pure copper coins in 1597 and 1601 (See Lindsay's Coinage of Scotland), and these were in common circulation during the whole of the 17th century. B. N.

G. W. *begs to assure Mr. Nightingale, that his promised "Brief Paper on the Satirical and Rhyming Tokens of the Seventeenth Century, with a few remarks on Town-pieces," cannot fail to be most acceptable to the readers of Current Notes.*

The Shakspere Society.

Mr. Willis,—Can any of your Correspondents give as good an account of the Shakspere Society as you have done of the Percy in the last Number of your Notes, and what will you give for the S. S. publications? You have made a distinct offer in one case, and I ask you what you will give for my duplicate set, should I be so lucky as to get one?

M. S. S.

G. W. *cannot reply to this question. In one case the Society exists, in the other it does not, and the books are not in the market.* G. W. *is prepared to give £1. for certain sets of three issues only, by the Percy Society, and as large a sum in proportion for one or two single issues, if offered to him. He must, therefore, decline saying anything further in this matter.*

Verses on Bobart's Dragon.

Ashby, May 28th, 1852.

Sir,—Dr. Zachary Grey in his edition of Hudibras, vol. 1, page 125, relates the following anecdote.

"Mr. Jacob Bobart, Botany Professor of Oxford, did about forty years ago, (in 1704) find a dead Rat in the Physic Garden, which he made to resemble the common picture of Dragons, by altering its head and tail, and thrusting in taper sharp sticks, which distended the skin on each side, till it mimicked wings. He let it dry as hard as possible. The learned immediately pronounced it a Dragon; and one of them sent an accurate description of it to Dr. Malibechi, Librarian to the Grand Duke of Tuscany: *several fine copies of verses* were wrote upon so rare a subject; but at last Mr. Bobart owned the cheat: however it was looked upon as a masterpiece of art, and as such deposited in the Anatomy Schools (at Oxford), where I saw it some years after."

Can you or any of your readers of "Current Notes," inform me whether I can procure the *several* fine copies of verses, or where they are to be seen, and any other particular relating to Jacob Bobart.

Yours, &c.

Mr. Willis. H. T. Bobart.

Sir Charles Wilkins.

April 2nd, 1852.

Sir,—Can you or your readers inform me whether any more detailed account of the literary labours and persevering achievements of the late Sir Charles Wilkins have been published, than those which appeared in the Penny Cyclopedia, and the Asiatic Journal, soon after his decease?

When it is considered how much he has done to advance and lay open such treasures in Eastern literature, posterity could not but read his Memoirs with feelings of veneration for talent of so high an order.

Yours,

Orientalis.

Pilgrim's Badge.

Mr. Willis,—Your Correspondent, "M. C. S." when he conjectures the Cross Keys, engraved in the number of your amusing "Current Notes for January last," p. 7, which I have only just found here, to be a Pilgrim's badge *brought from Rome*, had better look to and consider the Arms of the Sees of York, St. Asaph, Gloucester, and other English and Irish Cathedrals—Cashel for instance.

"M. C. S.," it appears to me, might have saved himself any conjecture upon the subject by referring the object in question to Mr. Roach Smith for his opinion—a gentleman who has made the religious badges and tokens of the Mediæval Ages his particular study, and who was, I believe, one of the first of our English antiquaries that called attention to such matters. See his *Collectanea Antiqua*.

I should not be sorry if you printed this my note to you, as it will give me the pleasure of making a public acknowledgment to Mr. Roach Smith of how much I feel indebted to him for the great kindness with which some time since he allowed me to inspect his treasures, and which I feel to be now, coupled with the Roman remains I have recently examined, so important to the knowledge of ancient London. His collection is an extraordinary one; and the frankness of his manner, while gratuitously devoting his valuable time, and no less valuable stores of information, (the result of thoughtful, profound, and judicious research), to a stranger, no less extraordinary.

I must couple with this acknowledgment my sincere regret that he who was the founder of the British Archæological Association, and who induced me to become a Member, has ceased not only to be its zealous Secretary, but a Member of what I fear will soon become a useless body, and to which, in consequence, I shall cease to subscribe.

I enclose my card, to be forwarded to Mr. Smith, should he require the name of your correspondent and

Subscriber.

Venice, 26th Feb. 1852.

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"Eugenius of Sterne."

May 28th, 1852.

Observing in your Current Notes for the present month, p. 35, an Enquiry after the "Eugenius" of Sterne, I beg to refer Mr. Murdoch to Graves's History of Cleveland, where he will find John Hall Stevenson, Esq. the witty and facetious author of Crazy Tales, stated to be the person alluded to—(see p. 357-8, Parish of Shelton.) T. O. Gery.

Sterne and his Friends.

Sir,—As I think it very probable that your Correspondent, Mr. Murdock of Glasgow, who appears in the May number of your Current Notes, p. 35, to feel so much interest about Sterne's authorship, is not aware of a little volume printed for private circulation in 1844, by W. Durrant Cooper, Esq. F.S.A. entitled, "Seven Letters written by Sterne and his Friends, hitherto unpublished," I beg to call his attention to it, as throwing considerable light upon what may be called "the secret literary history" of the period.

In the introductory observations addressed by Mr. Durrant Cooper to John Thomas Wharton, Esq., of Skelton Castle, he observes:—

"The two letters from Sterne are even more characteristic than the twelve also addressed to J. Hall Stevenson, which have found their way into Sterne's collected works. 'In the year thirty-two,' says the latter, 'my cousin sent me to the University, where I staid some time. 'Twas there I commenced a friendship with Mr. H. [Hall, afterwards Hall Stevenson] which has been lasting on both sides.' "Rightly," continues Mr. Cooper, "did Mr. H. Stevenson tell your uncle in the letter of 1785, wherein he recommended his grandson to pursue his studies at Cambridge, 'it is the only time of life to make lasting, honourable, and useful friendships.' He had experienced the full force of that truth. The friendship then formed with Sterne seems never to have been for one moment interrupted, and the letters shew what confidence the author of 'Tristram Shandy' *reposed in his Eugenius.*"

Your very humble servant,

Mr. Willis. S. P. T.

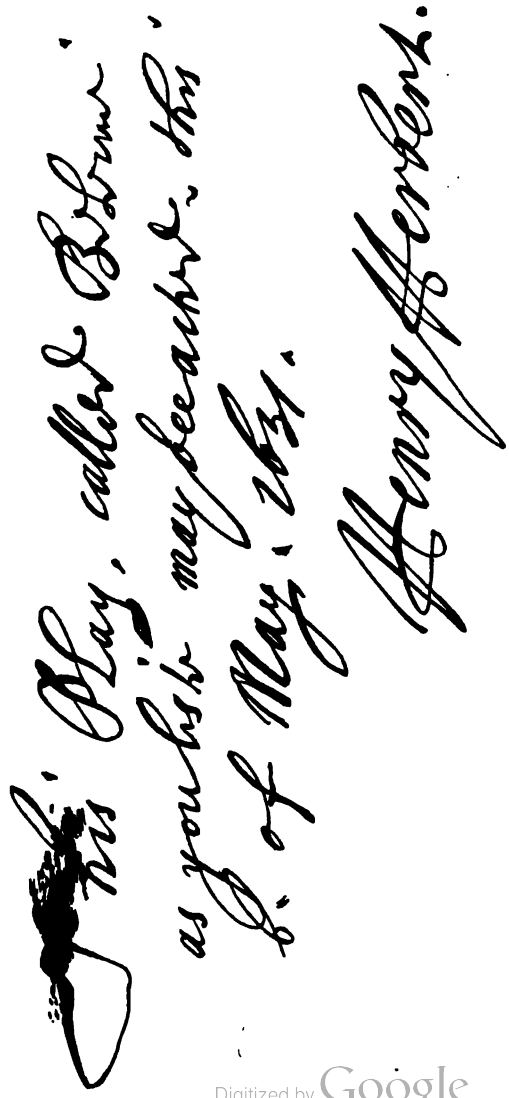
Massinger.

June 11th, 1852.

It must be acknowledged that there is not, nor can there be, a complete uniform edition of Massinger, so long as his supposed lost play of "Believe as you List," remains to be incorporated with his works. It has been published by the Percy Society, and although uniform with the issues of that recently deceased Association, will not correspond with any edition of the Poet's works; and should it be reprinted, will require careful revision.

The Manuscript was found among the papers of a deceased brother (Lancaster Herald, and one of the Executors to Mrs. Garrick's will), by Samuel Beltz, Esq. late of the Treasury, and by him presented to T. Crofton Croker, Esq. late of the Admiralty, by whom it was transcribed and edited for the Percy Society.

G. W. is indebted to the Council of that Society so far back as 6th of February, 1851, (see his Current Notes for July last, p. 50), for permission to insert among them the facsimile of the indorsements upon the parchment cover, which Mr. Croker agrees with Mr. Beltz, as regarding to be in Massinger's Autograph. The Athenæum, however, was of a different opinion. But there can be no doubt whatever that the manuscript is genuine, nor that the play was acted. Here is the facsimile of Sir Henry Herbert's License.



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And Mr. Crofton Croker, in reply to an application, had the goodness to inform G. W. that in addition to submitting his request to the consideration of the Council of the Percy Society, Mr. Croker would have presented the original MS. to the Library of the Society of Antiquaries or the British Museum, did he not consider that a most unfair attack had been made upon him by Mr. Payne Collier, a V. P. of that Society.

G. W. can only regret that any inquiry of his, which was kindly responded to, should lead to the revival of an unpleasant literary discussion—but circumstances have forced this acknowledgment upon him, and he acknowledges with sincere thanks Mr. Croker's courtesy.

Holograph.

"A young Country Collector of MS." would be obliged by the information as to the particular sense intended in Catalogues by the use of the word "Holograph," the more so from its so frequently appearing in "Autograph" sales.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Edinburgh, 15th June, 1852.

My dear Sir,—In your "Current Notes" for May, "A Subscriber" states, on the authority of a London bookseller, that the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland was altogether extinct.

I hope you will allow me space to contradict this assertion, and to assure your Subscriber that the Society has never been extinct, and is at present in full operation. It is true that the publication of the Society's Transactions has been suspended for many years, but it will shortly be resumed; indeed, the first part of the new issue is actually at press.

The "Archæologia Scotica" is still to be had, on application to Mr. McCulloch, Clerk to the Society, Museum, George Street.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

Mr. Willis. T. B. J., F.S.A.S.

Enquiry.

Birmingham, May 24, 1852.

Sir,—If any of the correspondents in your very interesting "Current Notes" could kindly inform me of the supposed age at the time of his death, of John de Grailey, Captal de Buch, who was celebrated in France during the reign of our Edward the Third, and also where I can gain any information respecting him besides that recorded in Froissart, they will greatly oblige,

Mr. G. Willis. Yours, S.

William Lowth, who was a Prior of some note, belonged to the Priory at Ixworth in Suffolk, that was, in or about A.D. 1100, founded by Gilbert de Blund, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, for the Black or Austin Canons. If Mr. Willis, or any of his Correspondents can give an idea of the date when he lived, I shall feel extremely obliged.

May 3rd. W. E.

Southey on Albums.

"Robert Southey is my name,
And England is my nation,
Keswick is my dwelling-place,
And albums are—my detestation!"

Mr. Willis.—If your learned Correspondent T. R. Brown (Rev.?) will do me the favour to explain the mystical meaning of the Hebrew letter Thau (ת), I should then be better able to follow some of his readings.

F. W. Williams.

Literary Enquiry.

Hawkshead, April 26.

Sir,—I shall feel much obliged if any of the readers of "Current Notes" will kindly afford even the least information respecting a small poetical volume, entitled "Sacrarum Heriodum Epistolæ, auctore Joanne Vincartio Insulano e S. J. Turici, 1640;" whether it exists in the British Museum, or in any other public or private library in this country. I have now before me a similar work: "Cl. Espencæi Theologi Parisiensis Sacrarum Heroidum Liber, &c. Paris. 1564." This I suppose to have been the precursor of the former. The Biography of the Literary Jesuit Fathers will doubtless supply some information; but this work, I believe, is also very scarce.

Yours, &c.

Mr. Willis. D. B. H.

Daniel O'Rourke.

Sir,—To make what your Correspondent A., who dates from "Oak House," ("Current Notes" for March last, p. 18), a sort of mystery more mysterious, I beg to refer him to an amusing little volume, entitled "Irish Popular Superstitions, by W. R. Wilde," which has just been published in Dublin, in the Shilling Series of "Readings in Popular Literature," where he will find it stated that "the story of Daniel O'Rourke is told upon a winter's night, by the *laussoque's* blaze in the Islands and Shark and Boffin (on the West Coast of Ireland), under the name of Terence O'Flaherty, as a warning to the stayers out late, by people who never heard of Mr. Crofton Croker's "Munster Legends." And a note adds, that "Daniel O'Rourke appeared many years before the publication of the "Munster Legends," in a periodical called the 'Dundee Repository.'"

Yours, &c.

Mr. Willis. W. B.

The Paradise of Coquettes.

Edinburgh.

Your Correspondent, W. G. is informed that the author of the Poem called the "Paradise of Coquettes," was Dr. Thomas Brown, the celebrated Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.

Mr. Willis. T. G. S.

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London, May 27, 1852.

SIR,—The "*Paradise of Coquettes*" was written by the late Thomas Brown, M.D. Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh, in the interval between Dugald Stewart and John Wilson, and one of the original colleagues of Jeffrey, in the Edinburgh Review.

Your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. D. C. L.

Cambridge, May 26th, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—"The Paradise of Coquettes," is by Dr. Thomas Brown, the Metaphysician. It is contained in his Poetical Works, published in 4 vols. 12mo. at Edin. 1820.

Yours truly,

Mr. Willis. A. M.

Merkland, Corsock, by Dumfries, May 27, 1852.

SIR,—The letter of your correspondent, W. G. dated from Edinburgh on the 27th of April, which appears in your Notes for this month, shews into what deep oblivion the authors of even respectable productions gathered from Parnassus are doomed speedily to sink. The author of the "Paradise of Coquettes," was Dr. Thomas Brown, late Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. The work was printed and published in Edinburgh in 1818, price 9*s*.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Willis. I. M.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Δ has kindly forwarded to G. W. transcripts of the following advertisements which have been enquired after.

HERALDS' COLLEGE.

"These are to give notice, that the Records of the Office of Arms are removed from Westminster to the *Colledge* of Arms, near Doctors' Commons, in London, where the Heralds and other Officers of Arms do attend as formerly."—*London Gazette, Monday, April* 19, 1675.

AUTOMATON CHESS PLAYER.

The famous Automaton Chess Player, and the speaking Organ; is to be seen every day at one o'Clock, No. 14, St. James Street, next Brook's; admittance, 5*s*.

Parties of at least 8 persons may have a private exhibition to themselves, at any hour of their own choice, on giving previous notice and sending for tickets. *June*, 1784.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F.S.A. "Ten Months' Experience in the Society of Antiquaries" must stand over for enquiry. Certainly, his comments upon the conduct of this Society and its Council may be found recorded among G. W.'s Current Notes for July last, but no copy of Mr. Bruce's pamphlet has reached the Piazza, as conjectured. And G. W. has as little knowledge of his correspondent who suggested "the Bruce," as he has of "the Akerman" testimonial. The mysteries of Learned Societies may be deciphered in Dr. Hume's laborious work on the subject.

G. W. respectfully declines noticing Mr. Pettigrew's pamphlet, but Willis's Notes are, and always have been, open to any communication.

QUERNS. Engraved.

"THE COCKED HAT CLUB," does not fit.

"BRONZE ARCHER." B. N. Must stand over for consideration and enquiry.

Μισοπολκα, received, but does not suit.

☞ The practice referred to by "A SUBSCRIBER" (*Reform Club*) exists among Booksellers who travel at their own risk and expense from London to attend distant Book Sales. But in the Book Auctions of the Metropolis nothing of the kind, to G. W.'s knowledge, is resorted to.

I. G. W. thanked, and Extract from the "Montreal Transcript" (24th April) received, but G. W. has already devoted as much space to the Aztec City in Central America as it is in his power to assign to a controverted question (see *Current Notes* for last January, p. 4, and February, p. 9), and G. W. has already declined inserting more than one *long* communication on this subject from want of space.

AMERICAN AUTHORS. Mr. Webster's words are as reported in the Boston Journal of 24th May, 1852—

"Sam Rogers reads them, Hallam reads them, Lord Mahon reads them, *and sometimes finds himself answered when he comments upon them.* In France, Thiers and Guizot read them," &c.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

BURKE, Thomas Haviland. Print and Autograph Collector. (His Collections will be sold by Messrs. Christie and Manson). Gloucester-place, Mary-le-bone. 3rd April. Aged 57.

CALVERT, Charles. Landscape Painter (late of Manchester), Bowness, Westmoreland. 26th February. Aged 66.

DODD, Rev. Philip Stanhope, M.A. Theology. Rector of Penshurst, Kent; Alrington, Sussex, and Chaplain to the Queen (his uncle was the unfortunately celebrated Dr. William Dodd). 22nd March. Aged 77.

DOLLOND, George Huggins, F.R.S. Optics and Astronomical Science. North Terrace, Camberwell. 13th May. Aged 79.

GRIFFIN, John, F.S.A. Senior Subscriber to the Royal Literary Fund (1790), and Father of Lady Franklin. Bedford Place, Russell Square. 2nd May. Aged 95.

HAVILAND, John, Architect and Engineer. Philadelphia, U.S. 28th March. Aged 59.

JENNINGS, Lieut. Edward, R.N. "Practical Hints to Seamen for preventing accidents on board ship," (1844), 8vo. Haverstock Hill. 12th April. Aged 58.

JONES, Rev. John, M.A. Welsh Poet and Biblical Scholar. (Tegid) Pembrokeshire. 2nd May. Aged 60.

MACKAY, Alexander. Foreign and Domestic Political Writer. On his way home from India. 15th April.

SARGEANT, Miss Anna Maria. Periodical Writer. "Chambers's Journal;" "The Belle Assemblée," &c., Works on Education. London. 18th April. Aged 42.

SUTHERLAND, Mrs. Charlotte. (Her late husband's completely illustrated Clarendon this lady gave to the Bodleian Library at Oxford, having previously printed a Catalogue of it.) Bramley, near Guildford. 18th March. Aged 69.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XIX.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [JULY, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

FRESCO PAINTINGS ON THE WALLS OF CHURCHES.

SIR,—I rejoice to find that the absurd outcry which was raised a few years ago about the preservation of the grotesque paintings accidentally discovered upon the walls of some of our old Protestant Churches has died away. And I trust that all churchwardens will speedily efface such disgusting and barbarous representations as exist in St. Mary's Church at Guildford. What, for instance, can be more shocking than to see the Saviour casting out devils, thus represented?

And where or how could whitewash be better bestowed than in concealing such frightful enormities from our eyes as that here represented with reference to the ceremony of Baptism?

No one with a single grain of common sense ought to tolerate the cant about "Mural Paintings," and "Mediæval Art," which has been got up by a set of quacks with whom no one who really respects religion or art can sympathize. I am no Archæologist, although I am

Mr. Willis. AN ARCHITECT.

NEW EDITION OF SHAKESPEARE!—Mr. Halliwell has announced a new edition of Shakespeare in Twenty volumes folio, of which only one hundred and fifty copies will be printed, and Mr. Halliwell proposes to complete his gigantic task in six or seven years, or at the rate of about three volumes annually, the price of each to be two guineas. He intends that this edition, besides being judiciously illustrated under the direction of Mr. Fairholt, should contain all the original novels and tales on which the plays are founded. He asserts in his prospectus that there are "*upwards of two thousand obsolete words and phrases in Shakespeare left without any explanation in the editions of Mr. Knight and Mr. Collier;*" and as an instance of the labour and expense incurred by him during the last twelve years in preparing for this edition of our Poet's Works, mentions that in one instance he gave "upwards of sixty pounds for a single tract on account of its affording an unique illustration of one play."

That this edition on the part of Mr. Halliwell must be "a labour of love" no one can doubt, for it is quite evident that as a pecuniary speculation it cannot remu-

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nerate him, for it is impossible to estimate the cost of producing "a thick folio, copiously illustrated," at much less than three hundred guineas, and Mr. Halliwell has pledged himself to his subscribers that the plates will be destroyed, and no more copies printed than the number he has named, viz. one hundred and fifty.

Wellbeloved's "Eburacum."

Sir,—I observe in Saturday's "Athenæum" (July 17th), a statement which I am at a loss to comprehend, for surely it cannot be imputed to the *ignorance* of the writer, who is one of the reviewers of that celebrated periodical. He states that Mr. Wellbeloved printed a work for private circulation called "Eboracon." Now I possess a valuable volume, by the Rev. C. Wellbeloved, called "*Eburacum*, or York under the Romans." Can you tell me where I can get a copy of "Eboracon," where it was printed, and who is the author?

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. G.

Bagshot, July 19th.

Atlas of Epochs.

Leeds, 1st July, 1852.

In the "Quarterly Journal of Education," about twenty years ago, an Atlas was advertised, which was to contain about thirty maps, exhibiting the world as it was known at several of the most important epochs—as, in the time of Augustus—of Constantine—at the fall of Constantinople, &c. &c. Can any of your readers say if this was published, and give the exact title? If such a work exists, with the maps *all on one scale*, it would be highly useful.

Mr. G. Willis. T. W.

Archæology.—*The London Weekly Paper* (July 3rd) states that an Archæological meeting will be held during the present month at *Battle*. No more appropriate locality could have been selected.

F. S. A.

Crossed Bankers' Checks.—A Correspondent informs Mr. Willis that he made a mem. of what he considered to be an important bit of information, which he found among G. W.'s "Current Notes" for February, 1851, No. II. p. 16, on this subject. In the case, however, of "Bellamy *v.* Majoribanks," tried in the Court of Exchequer on the 26th *ultimo*, it was ruled by the Lord Chief Baron, that the practice of crossing checques was not legal, because by such crossing the meaning and object of such checques being payable to "bearer" were thus limited. And therefore a verdict of £2,596. 17*s* was, under the direction of the learned Judge, found in favour of the defendants Messrs. Coutts and Co. represented by Mr. Majoribanks.

The convenience and security of the practice of crossing checques will, it is to be hoped, not be disturbed by this decision, and that the Bankers of London will unite in securing such a legal enactment as may establish a practice which, although admitted not to be a general custom, is much

Pro Bono Publico.

July 1st, 1852.

The Packet Station.

Bravely doth Southampton stand
Upon an up-hill tongue of land,
Walled about with gate and tower,
Remnants of its former power.
On the East, a muddy ditch in
Ebbs and flows the River Itchen;
Wiley winding on the West,
Serpent-like creeps on the Test;
And about its Docks and Docking,
"Sweet's the talk"—the smell is shocking.

Let Southampton jobbers laugh
At electric telegraph;
But I warn them, like a prophet,
Sharp's the shock, they will feel of it;
Westward goes the Packet Station,
Now 'tis clear to every nation;
Just as clear, as that the Mail mode
Must run always *viâ* Rail-road;
So Irish boys—"Hip—Hip—Hurrah—
For Bandon and for Bantry Bay!"

For Mr. Willis. Pat. R. E.

From the Cork Exhibition Rooms,
June 30, 1852.

Holograph.

Sir,—I beg to inform "a Young Country Collector," (Current Notes for June, p. 55) that the term Holograph is compounded of two Greek words, ὅλος and γραφω, and signifies a deed entirely in the writer's own hand. If I sign my name to a letter it is an autograph, if I write the whole of it—it is a holograph,

Yours, &c.

Johnson by Todd.

Mr. Willis.

G. W. C. *(Manchester, 5th July) thanked. The foregoing renders it unnecessary to insert his obliging communication.*

Spoken under the Rose.

Sir,—The following remarks on this proverb, in the "Vulgar Errors of Sir Thomas Browne," form a clue to the discovery of its full and true meaning:—

"When we desire to confine our words, we commonly say they are spoken under the rose; which expression

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is commendable, if the rose, from any *natural property*, may be the symbol of silence, as Nazianzen seems to imply in these translated verses:

" 'Utque latet Rosa verna suo *putamine* clausa,
Sic os vincla ferat, validisque arctetur habenis,
Indicatque suis prolixa silentia labris:'

And is also tolerable, if by desiring a secrecy to words spoken under the rose, we only mean in society, and compotation, from the ancient custom in symposiack meetings, to wear chaplets of roses about their heads; and so we condemn not the German custom, which over the table describeth a rose in the ceiling. But *more considerable* it is, if the original were such as Lemnius and others have recorded, that the rose was the flower of *Venus*, which *Cupid* consecrated to *Harpocrates*, the God of *Silence*, and was therefore an emblem thereof; * * * as is declared in this tetrastich:

" '*Est Rosa flos Veneris*, cujus quò facta laterent,
Harpocrati matris, dona dicavit *Amor*;
Inde Rosam mensis hospes suspendit amicis,
Convivæ ut sub eâ dicta tacenda sciant.' "

Were I to attempt to do justice to this subject, I might probably take up a much larger space than your eight very interesting pages would contain; and as you have somewhere requested your correspondents to be concise in their communications, I have no other mode left than that of putting my remarks into the shape of foot-notes.

1. Harpocrati.—Har-po-crat-es (or Horus, THE *time*) signifies, *Vishnu* (Hari) *completing his nourishment* (in the womb of time.) Both he and his priests are represented with a finger placed on the lips, to denote silence concerning *the time* when Harpocrates or Horus (the Messiah) should come into the world. We have, moreover, Scripture testimony to prove that silence was prescribed to those who were entrusted with the *full* secret. "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and *the preaching* of Jesus Christ, according to *the revelation of the* MYSTERY, which was *kept* SECRET since the world began." Rom. xvi. 25.

2. Matris.—His mother was the Egyptian Isis, represented in various ways. Vide Cuperi Harpocrates; and Isis is the same as Venus Urania. See L'Abbé Pluche; and Isis is the same as THE *Woman* אִשָּׁה Isha, Gen. iii. 15. "Causam vero hujusmodi cultus Isidi tributi non aliam fuisse censet, quam quæ antiquissima, eaque certa persuasione gentium de Unigenito veri Dei Filio ex Virgine Matre nascituro prodierat." Alphabetum Tibetanum, p. 56: therefore Venus Urania was the type of the Virgin (Mary). I possess a bronze Isis, holding in her left hand the hieroglyph for THE *Omega*, and in her right hand the hieroglyph for THE *Woman* (Γυνη).

3. Est Rosa flos Veneris.—There are various images of Isis on coins and amulets, which shew that her emblem was the Lotus, the Lily, and the Rose. In Cuperi Harpocrates, we are told that "hic Puer, vel parvus Infans, nullus alius quam Harpocrates esse potest, quem vel loto insidentem, vel aliis symbolis ornatum." These images represent Horus, some from the time of his SPIRITUAL conception; some during the time of his concealment or nourishment, and others at the time of his birth; and all of them represent him labia digito prementem. The sacred *misteltoe* or *mistel* is applicable to Harpocrates *from the time of his conception to the time of his birth.*

4. Putamine.—I take *putamen* to indicate the *rose-bud.*

5. Let me now refer to the famous fable of Venus and Adonis, evidently concocted from sacred histories, and vitiated after the peculiar manner of Ovid. *Venus*, hearing the dying voice of her *son*, killed by *Mars*, hastened to his assistance, and pricked her foot with a thorn; and the blood falling upon the *Rose*, turned it from *a lily colour to a carnation colour*, &c. See King's account of the heathen gods, where the whole story reminds us of the events that took place at and after the death of our Saviour.

Hence, I draw the conclusion that the *white rose-*BUD was the proper emblem of the blessed Virgin, "εως ου ετεκε τον υιον υτης τον πρωτοτοκον." *At* his birth, her emblem was *the* FULL-BLOWN *white rose. After* her purification, *the* RED *rose* is her proper emblem; *i. e.* when referring to her after that period.

It may be interesting to the florist to know that the *Anemone* (breathing or filled with wisdom) is the lovely emblem of our blessed Saviour. The *Rose* and *Lily* signify *love*, desire, &c. The *Lotus* signifies to *enclose*, envelop.

I am, sir, yours truly,

T. R. BROWN.

Southwick Vicarage, near Oundle,
June 26th, 1852.

P.S.—I do not know to which of my printed works Mr. F. W. Williams refers in your number for June, p. 55, (Readings and Critical Notes on the Difficult Texts of Sacred Scripture?), I, however, most willingly give him the required information. The chief significations of the letter ת, thau, are: a repository, tent, coffer, to conceal, lay up, secrete. When in composition in a Hebrew word, it forms a noun, or any other part of speech which will take in the idea of *a covering, repository, womb, place of concealment*, &c. In my nomenclature of the ancient Hebrews, p. 140 of my Gram. of Hebrew Hieroglyphs, and after a full explanation of it, I have given them, "A repository, tabernacle, superficies, to shut, lay up."

Mr. Willis. T. R. BROWN (Rev.)

QUERNS.

QUERN means a corn-mill, worked by hand, in its ordinary acceptation. The word in Anglo-Saxon is cþeoɿn, from whence our familiar word churn; but it

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is not quite clear to me that this popular word has not an occult meaning, and I should like to have the opinion of such scholars as your correspondent, the Rev. Mr. Brown, upon this point.

The excavations which have been made in the Carribean graves of America satisfy me that the capsular stones seen in the British Islands and elsewhere, sometimes with from one to five hollows in them, were the primitive quern, and that these capsules or hollows were originally produced by pounding, and afterwards by attrition made circular. I send a drawing of one, which

I procured from the neighbourhood of a windmill so ancient as to be mentioned in the Doomsday Book. The quern was, I believe, very generally used by the Romans, but under the name "mola." Here there is not the slightest affinity in sound, and the Latin "cirnea," for a churn, affords to my ear, I confess, as little association—though this has been questioned.

The use of the quern seems to be world-wide, and from the remotest ages to the present time. Boswell, in his Tour to the Hebrides, says—"We stopped at a little hut, where we saw an old woman grinding corn with the *quern*, an ancient Highland instrument, which it is said was used by the Romans; but which, being very slow in its operation, is almost entirely gone into disuse."

Dr. Clarke mentions one which he saw in Cyprus, as similar to the Scotch quern, of which you have a sketch

inclosed, "common also to Lapland, and in all parts of Palestine." In a village near Jerusalem that traveller beheld two women grinding at the mill, in a manner most forcibly illustrating the words of St. Matthew, xxiv. 41. The Earl of Ellesmere, in his Mediterranean Sketches (1834), says—"In a window of our apartment stood one of those simple hand mills of Scripture, deemed in the time of Moses so essential to the domestic economy of his people, that he exempted it, as he also did the widows' raiment, from the fangs of the pawnbroker. Deut. xxiv. 6. 'No man shall take the upper or nether mill-stone to pledge, for he taketh a man's life to pledge.' Judges ix. 53: 'And a certain woman cast a piece of a mill-stone upon Abimelech's head, and all to break his skull.' Some commentators wish to render this the upper stone of a hand mill. If the Hebrew text allow this, it will be the more satisfactory version, for a better missile could not be devised than the entire stone. Such a stone, also, would not only serve as a sufficient weight to drown a swimmer, but might easily be attached to his neck for that purpose." "In a Dutch illustrated Bible, in the passage to which I have already adverted," continues his Lordship, "the woman is represented as heaving a mill-stone of some ten feet diameter on the head of Abimelech."

Obediently, Mr. Willis's humble servant,

Q. S. T.

Bath, 3rd June.

Rhyming Tokens.

Among the "Curiosities of Coinage" may be enumerated the Tokens current in the seventeenth century, during the Commonwealth, the Protectorate, and the Restoration, issued by Tavern-keepers and Tradesmen "for public convenience." It would not suit my purpose, nor your space, to discuss their origin and uses, which may be found fully described in "Akerman's London Tokens." I mean now only to touch briefly upon a class which may be denominated ***Rhyming Tokens***, a few specimens of which have come under my notice.

In my own collection I find three, one of which was issued by "Sam. Endon in Macklesfield," and represents a man smoking a pipe, between a roll of tobacco and a pair of scales, thus indicating the nature of his calling, and the justice of his dealings; around it runs the following distich:

> **"Welcom you be**
> **To trade wh me."**

The second is the Token of John Hart of Nottingham, whose device is a ***heart***, and who adopts the "***I promise to pay***" style, in this verse,

> **"Take these that wil**
> **Ile chaing them stil."**

The third is issued by the proprietor of the "Coffee House in Exchange Ally," (the original Garway's or Garraway's), on which appears a Turk's head with these lines:

> **"Morat ye Great men did mee call**
> **Where 'ear I came I conquer'd all."**

This was the warrior Sultan of Turkey, Amurath IV., whose name was thus popularized, or vulgarised, into Morat; just as Boney was the popular diminutive of Bonaparte early in the present century, as many of us can well remember.*

In the Staffordshire collection of Mr. Salt, the Banker, is a very pretty token "set forth by the Corporation of Lichfield," which exhibits a humane sentiment in tolerable rhyme:

> **"To supply the Poore's need**
> **Is charity indeed."**

In the same collection is another Token issued by

*** It is worthy of remark that the Duke of Wellington occasionally, in his despatches from the seat of war, designated his great opponent as "Boney."**

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"Will. Wakelin at the Crown in Uttoxeter," a zealous royalist, the exuberance of whose loyalty breaks forth in the following execrable doggrel:

"Vive le Roi
In Uttexetor."

If "brevity" be "the soul of wit," Master Wakelin may be said to have achieved it, for he has actually transposed the letters of Uttoxeter in order to produce this ludicrous rhyme.

In Mr. Frudenthal's extensive series of tokens, I find two of this *Rhyming* class, one of which, in allusion to its metal, runs thus,

"Althoug but bras
Yet let me pass."

The other, issued by "P. J. of Charde," bears a crowned rose, with this distich:

"Receive the Crown
In every towne."

The meaning is not very clear, but we may suppose a loyal sentiment is intended.

In Akerman's interesting Catalogue of London Tokens, I have noticed one of Church-yard Alley in Southwark, which bears the device of a pump; and a very remarkable pump it must have been, for it is accompanied by these lines:

"This Pump runs cleer
Wih Ale and Beer."

In the Catalogue of Yorkshire Tokens now publishing by Mr. Wardell of Leeds in the "Reliquiæ Antiquæ Eboracenses," I observe one issued by a tradesman at Gildersome, which bears this rhyming motto,

"Strike light,
Weigh right."

The first line seems somewhat obscure, but I suppose it to be a technical phrase used by bakers in drawing their loaves. There is, however, no evidence on this token that the issuer was of that trade, the device being a woolpack.

In Dr. Aquila Smith's printed Catalogue of *Irish* Tokens, I find but one that may be considered of the rhyming class; the distich is more commercial than humourous:

"When you please,
Ile change thes."

It occurs on a Wexford Token, and is repeated on another of Carrickmacross. Humourous and witty as the Irish of all classes are known to be, I certainly am disappointed in not finding more of their Tokens bearing punning or rhyming mottoes.

I have only to add that the list of this class of Tokens might be much enlarged by patient research among the numerous private collections that exist; although it is not all collectors who will permit their stores to be accessible, or subservient to any literary or useful purpose. They present a remarkable episode in the annals of Coinage, and I doubt whether any country beside our own can produce so singular a series. They are not only highly amusing, but occasionally afford glimpses of the manners, customs, and modes of thought of the trading community during an interesting period of English history. B. N.

Daniel O'Rourke.

July 1, 1852.

Sir.—Your Correspondent A. in your March Notes, says that in T. C. Croker's "Fairy Legends," he states that he knew Daniel O'Rourke well, and that he was an old man when he told him the story of his flight to the moon on the 25th June, 1813, observing that "all this seems very circumstantial." Now Prince Puckler Muscaw is no less circumstantial, when in his Irish Tour, Vol. I. p. 348-9, he says—

"October 2, 1828.—I am just returned from an excursion of sixteen miles with Colonel W—— to Hungry Hill, a lofty mountain at the end of Bantry Bay, remarkable for its waterfall and for Thomas O'Rourke's flight to the moon on an eagle's back which began here, and has so often been related in prose and verse. Even in Germany this amusing tale has been repeatedly translated, and has probably fallen into your hands. The hero of the story is a gamekeeper of Lord B——'s who is still alive, and almost always drunk. On our return Colonel W—— introduced him to me at the Inn. He is now extremely proud of his celebrity, and seemed to me when I saw him to be projecting another visit to the moon."

I am, Sir,

Mr. Willis. Your Constant Reader.

The Westons of West Horsley.

Mr. Willis,—If any of your Heraldic Correspondents can inform me why the chevron was introduced into the armorial bearings of this ancient family, they would much oblige me.

The arms borne by the first four generations, from the time of the Conqueror were—

—when about the sixth of John the chevron appears to have been introduced by Adam de Weston. And this, I am told, was also the case about the same period in the bearing of many similarly arranged coats.

Your humble servant,
H. T. W.

Bengal, 26th May, 1852.

"Eugenius of Sterne."

Manse of Rothiemurchen,
July 2nd, 1852.

Sir,—Your "Current Notes" are often instructive and amusing. I hope yourself, or some of your readers, will be able to inform me in your next who the Eugenius

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was that made an addition to Sterne's Sentimental Journey.

I am, sir, yours truly,

Mr. Willis. A. RUTHERFORD.

[*In G. W.'s Current Notes for June it is stated that "Eugenius" was John Hall Stevenson, Esq.*]

"PEARLE OF PRAYER."

Longsight, near Manchester,
1st July, 1852.

SIR,—I should feel obliged to any of your Correspondents, or readers of your "Current Notes," if they could give me any information of the following small work which I am unable myself to trace in any Catalogue, and also several of the best bibliographical works.

Mr. G. Willis. J. B. RONDEAU.

NARNE, (By Mr. William P. of *Dysert*.) PEARLE OF PRAYER, most pretious and powerful, &c. 18mo. Dedicated to Charles I. (dated from *Dysart*, the 28th May, 1630). And afterward to the Right Virtuous and Worshipfull Patrons of this Famous Citie of Edinburgh, David Aikenhead, most worthie Lord Provest, &c., and to the whole Counsell, &c. of Edinburgh, &c. &c. 456 pp. Concluding with a part of a page of "Faults escaped," on the recto of last leaf.

"ROBBED BETWEEN SUN AND SUN."

Hereford, July 2nd, 1852.

SIR,—Recollecting the query of your Correspondent Y. S. N. in your "Current Notes" for January, p. 6, as to "the origin of this expression," I have picked it out to-day in "Butler's Remains," in his "Repartees between Cat and Puss," lines 121-2:

"As thieves, that *rob* themselves *'twixt sun and sun*,
Make others pay for what themselves have done."

Mr. Willis. C. N.

THE COW-CHASE.

MR. WILLIS,—Any of your American Correspondents who can supply you with a copy of some verses written by the unfortunate Major André under the above title, and published in New York on the very day that he was taken by a party of General Wayne's soldiers (26th September, 1780) would very much oblige your Correspondent. The circumstances of Major André's execution as a spy soon afterwards at Tappan or Orange Town, where General Grey two years before cut up (or rather murdered) Washington's Dragoons, whom he surprised, and all of whom he killed while asleep, may have had some influence upon the fate of Major André, but I am inclined to think that his satirical verses upon General Wayne, entitled "The Cow Chase," may have determined it, and if published by you among your "Current Notes," might have the effect of setting at rest much misrepresentation upon both sides respecting that lamentable event—which is now matter of history alone.

E. C.

Belfast, July 1, 1852.

MYSTICAL MEANING OF THE HEBREW LETTER TAW.

SIR,—By a mistake of your printer, the letter ה (He) is substituted for ת (Taw), in Mr. Williams's note of enquiry respecting the mystical meaning of the latter, which appeared among your "Current Notes" for June, (p. 55). Should the Rev. Mr. Brown offer any explanation for your Correspondent's information, as requested, I will respectfully bow to that learned gentleman's superior erudition. I would merely refer your Correspondent to Claude Paradin's *Devises Heroiques*, where he will find it stated—

"La lettre Hebraique, THAU, est un sainct et salutifere signe, et de croix, selon sainct Hierosme sur S. Marc. De tel signe, jadis Ezechiel en esprit prophetique, vid marquer par l'Ange les fideles au front, reconnus tristes en leurs cœurs des abominations commises en Hierusalem, au moyen dequoy furent sauvez, et les obstinez par sentence divine furent soudainement occis. Davantage signifie ceste THAU consommation et pour autant est finale de l'Alphabet des Hebrieux, clouant et consommant iceluy, cōme Alef le cōmence. Chose qui n'est jamais ainsi advenuë sans grand mystere, veu que nostre Redempteur, estant mis en Croix, vint à proferer ces derniers mots, avant la mort, CONSUMMATUM EST, manifestant par iceux, la consommation de toutes propheties et écritures, estre a venuë à celle heure qu'il estoit eslevé sus le signe de ceste lettre. Laquelle quant à sa forme, estant peinte enlettre versale, represente mieux signe de Croix qu' autrement, et la peignent tant les Grecs, que les Latins, en propre forme de Creix, jusques aujourd'huy, T. Telle est doncques la vraye enseigne, ou estendart, des militans en l'Eglise Chrestienne."

Paradin's little book is one of such extreme rarity, that I have made this quotation from it for Mr. Williams. I never saw a copy of it perfect, and you may remember that the one I purchased from you wanted the title-page. It is not noticed by Watt in his valuable "Bibliotheca Britannica;" but was, I believe, published in 1610.

I remain, sir, your humble servant,

Mr. Willis. G. G. ROGERS ROGERS.

JOKEBY.

26th June.

SIR,—Can any of your communicants inform me who was the author of "Jokeby, a Burlesque on Rokeby. By an Amateur of Fashion; with occasional Notes by our most Popular Characters?" Printed for Thomas Tegg, 1813.

Mr. Willis. Y. S. N.

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Literary Enquiry Answered.

British Museum, July, 1852.

Sir,—I beg to inform your Correspondent D. B. H. (in reply to his enquiry of April 25, which appeared in your "Current Notes" for last month, p. 55), that John Vincart was born at Lille in Flanders, 1593, and became a Jesuit at the age of twenty. He studied at the college of his Order at Lille and Tournai, and distinguished himself by his talent for Latin Poetry. The first work he published was entitled "Virgo Cancellata in Ecclesia D. Petri Insulæ cultu et miraculis celebris, 1636;" a History of our Lady of the Lattice in St. Peter's Church at Lille. A second edition appeared in 1638. Having been pressed to undertake a translation of this his first production, he published it in French in 1671, with additional particulars of several miracles of which he was an eye-witness. In 1640 appeared "Sacrarum Heroidum Epistolæ." The author in his preface professes an admiration for Ovid; and seems to have chosen him as his model, substituting Christian heroes for those of the Latin Poet. He declares that it was composed chiefly for his own amusement, and to relieve his mind from care. It is a thin 12mo. volume, is dedicated to the General of the Order, and contains twenty-four Epistles, in Latin Elegiac verse. Each epistle is adorned with a neat allegorical vignette, engraved by Rucholle. The third and last book is devoted to Saints of the Order. His poetry is good, and there are some passages of great beauty. I have not space for a quotation, and can only give a few of the titles—Mary to Jesus—Anna to Tobias—Loyola to Ignatius—Kotska to Our Blessed Lady—Aloysius to a fountain, &c. The prologue to the first Epistle relates, that it was the custom of the Jews to visit the Temple three times during the year; and so Joseph with Mary and the child Jesus, who was then twelve years of age, set out to Jerusalem. After making their offering, they return homewards to Nazareth; but Jesus remains secretly behind. When Mary sees this, she thinks he must have mingled with the crowd of men who are walking apart from the women; and, bowed down with grief, turns back her footsteps to seek her son. Having sought him for three days in vain, worn out with grief and fatigue, she is represented by the Poet inditing this Epistle—an expression of her maternal love and sorrow at his loss—and breathing forth a prayer for his speedy restoration to her arms. The allegorical vignette represents her and Joseph resting near the city. On a tree sits a solitary dove, which has lost its mate, to which her grief is beautifully compared.

The work passed through several editions. The latest I have seen is dated 1737. There are two copies in the British Museum. John Vincart died at Tournay, 1679. His name does not occur in the Bibliotheca Scriptorum Soc. Jes. by Alegambe, to which your Correspondent refers.

Yours truly,

A Bookworm.

American Improvement of the English Language.—The *New York Herald* of 16th June, contains the following "*Go-a-head*" advertisement:—

"Literary—Wanted—A Gentleman fully competent to transform a small English pamphlet, so as to be fit for publication in America. Address, box 109, Broadway Post-office."

Antique Gems.

Sir,—In a very learned and instructive paper, by Mr. Thomas Wright, upon "Antiquarian Excavations and Researches in the Middle Ages," printed in the XXXth volume of the Archæologia, that gentleman appears to me to have overlooked an important illustration of his subject, in a seal which is attached to a Charter dated the 17th of Edward I., preserved in the British Museum. The centre is evidently the impression from a head of fine Roman workmanship, while the mediæval letters around it decide that the age of its setting must be about the period of the document to which it is affixed.

I read what remains of the inscription—

CREDITE : SIG : EI : SIMO ——
—— S SPEI.

Your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. J. R.

Dr. Caleb Threlkeld's Hortus Siccus.

June 18, 1852.

Sir,—I will feel obliged if any of your Correspondents can inform me what became of Dr. Threlkeld's "Hortus Siccus;" also, whether any of his Correspondence has been published; as well as any other particulars relative to this individual, not given by Dr. Pultney in his "Biographical Sketches."

Dr. Threlkeld resided in Dublin from 1713 to 1728, published his "Synopsis Stirpium Hibernicarum" in 1727, and died the following year.

Mr. Willis. H. C.

Richardson's Works.

Sir,—Your "Unknown Correspondent," at least the writer who signs himself so in the June number of your "Current Notes," p. 49, asserts that the works of Richardson "are now almost waste paper upon a bookseller's shelf." Permit us against this observation to

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place that of Sir Walter Scott, who says, "The power of Richardson's painting in his deeper scenes of Tragedy, has never been, and probably never will be, excelled."

Yours,

Mr. Willis. S. S. D.

DR HUME'S LEARNED SOCIETIES OF ENGLAND.

Blackburn, 24th June, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—I should be glad if you would notify in your "Current Notes," the appearance of Dr. Hume's work on the "Learned Societies, &c. of the United Kingdom," when it is out.

Yours, most truly,

Mr. Willis. W. HARRISON.

THEODORE HOOK ON ALBUMS.

OH yes! oh yes! my signature I'm giving
(It may well make all thinking people laugh)
That those who do not care for me while *living*
One jot—may, DEAD, possess my autograph.

T. E. H.

AUTOMATON CHESS PLAYER.—This so-called Exhibition mentioned in your "Current Notes" for June, p. 56, was the invention of Mr. de Kempelen, and was shewn a second time in London in 1818, under the direction of Mr. Maelzel.

Your namesake, the present Professor Willis of Cambridge, published a small work on the subject in 1821, which satisfactorily established that it was not the result of mechanism, but was wholly controlled by a concealed human agent; and a copy of the Professor's volume, which was an anonymous one, has lately come into my possession, with the following manuscript note:—

"At the time when this Analysis was made, Mr. Willis and his sister were my pupils; I am therefore well informed respecting his proceeding. He visited the Automaton many times for the purpose of estimating the dimensions of the compartments within the chest behind which the figure was placed. He then caused to be made a similar chest, and copied the parts of the interior. His sister, who was full grown, entered the chest, and moved through the different compartments. In the prints Mr. W. has given the different positions of the figure by dotted outlines, and has proved the changes to be very easily made, and the spaces quite sufficient to contain any middle-sized person."

Mr. Willis. PHILIDOR, JUN.

ALCHEMISTS.

Lincoln's Inn, July 5th.

SIR,—Can any of your Correspondents inform me where I can find a complete list of works on Alchemy. I have a strange fondness for those old Alchemists and Rosicrucians and hunters after the philosopher's stone, with their crucibles, and retorts, metals, loadstones, and potent influences—strange retired beings who shut themselves up from the world to learn those arts by which they fondly hoped to wield its destiny, who became poor in solving the problem how to obtain unbounded wealth; who in dark rooms and subterranean vaults studied to read the Arcana of Nature's hidden Book; who in the midst of their follies and delusions, straining after impossibilities, are still entitled to our reverence for that application to speculative science which in happier times has formed a Davy or a Newton for the professed discoveries and real inventions which their misdirected studies served occasionally to unfold.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CUSTOMER AND AN ALCHEMIST.

Mr. Willis.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. FOSS, Surgeon, &c. Stockton-upon-Tees, June 30. G. W. *has had the pleasure to forward to him the communications received from his American Correspondents respecting the Aztec City and Children, which he hopes may prove acceptable.*

"THE PARADISE OF COQUETTES."—*Unable to devote any more space to this subject.*

T. R. B. thanked. G. W. has not seen the Mona Herald. The promised paper on the Mistletoe, cannot fail to be acceptable to the readers of "Willis's Current Notes." But every line is an object, in having to deal with scores of communications in eight pages.

W. H.'s note, stands over for the drawing to be engraved from.

(REFORM CLUB).—G. W. cannot answer the question in I. P. S.'s note of 15th June.

No space for extracts from the "New Bedford Mercury" (U. S.) of 20th June, or those sent by SAPHENIO.

EARL ST. VINCENT'S MOTTO.—Thanked, but must stand over.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

BUCHNER, M. André (Professor), Chemist. Munich. Aged 69.

BURNOUF, M. Eugène (Professor), Sanscrit scholar; Secretary of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres. Paris.

DENNETT, John, Antiquary. Carisbrooke Castle, 10th July. Aged 62.

PRADIER, Jacques, Sculptor. Paris, 5th June. Aged 56.

SMITH, Rev. Theyre Townsend, M.A., Theology. Wymondham, Norfolk, 4th May.

SMYTHE, Clement Taylor, Archæologist. Maidstone, 30th June. Aged 60.

VINT, Henry (F.S.A.), Archæologist. St. Mary's Lodge, Colchester.

WORTHINGTON, Benjamin (Lieut., R.N.), Hydrography. Dover, 13th February. Aged 60.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XX.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [AUGUST, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

ORIGINAL WARRANT FOR THE EXECUTION OF KING CHARLES THE 1ST, ADDRESSED TO COL. FRANCIS HACKER AND OTHERS.

IT is not very generally known that the *original* Warrant for the High Court appointed to try the King and under which he suffered, exists and is preserved in the House of Lords. As many idle rumours and misstatements upon the subject have been in circulation the following facts, founded upon evidence, may be interesting:—

On the 21st July, 1660, a message from the House of Commons was delivered in the House of Lords on sending up the Instrument for proclaiming the High Court of Justice for judging the late King's Majesty, wherein it is stated "As concerning the Warrant for the "execution it was sent to Col. Hacker who is now a "prisoner in the Tower." On the same day an order was made that the Warrant "be returned into the House "by nine of the clock next morning by the Lieutenant "of the Tower or his deputy."

On the 24th July a Report was made from the Lieutenant of the Tower that he had "examined Col. Hacker, "who confesseth that he hath the Warrant in the order "mentioned, at his house in the country, and believes it "agrees with what is printed. His wife and family are "in town, so that he saith without sending his wife "down he knows not how further to give satisfaction." Hereupon it was ordered "that Col. Hacker do send his "wife into the country to fetch the said Warrant, and "that the Gentleman Usher attending this House do "send a man along with her for the purpose."

The House was further informed that the Lieutenant of the Tower "said he asked Col. Hacker if he knew "the person that executed His late Majesty, and he "told him that he had heard it was a Major, but he "does not know his name, but he will endeavour to find "it out."

On Tuesday the 31st July the Lords' Journal has the following entry:—

"This day the Lieutenant of the Tower sent in the "original Warrant for signing the murder of the late "King; which he received from Colonel Hacker. The "House then adjourned into a Committee, during plea-"sure, to proceed further in the consideration of the "Bill of Indemnity and Oblivion.

"The House was resumed,

"And the Lord Robertes reported the names of those "that gave sentence upon the murder of the late King, "and those that signed the Warrant for his execution, "which were read."—*Lords' Journal*, vol. xi. pp. 100—113.

It is clear, therefore, that the original Warrant passed from Col. Hacker through the Lieutenant of the Tower to the House of Lords, in whose custody it has remained since the Restoration.

S. E. G.

PORTLAND CASTLE.

July 21st, 1852.

This Castle was built by Henry VIIIth, after his return from the Field of the Cloth of Gold; we found it replete with local and historical associations, and ancestral reminiscences of the family of its occupant, Captain Manning, whose loyalty typifies that of the Portlanders from the period of the Great Rebellion and the halcyon days of George III. to the present time.

There is a Closet devoted to Her present Majesty, fitted with regal splendour, though the most correct taste is exhibited throughout, quite in keeping with the other decorations and appointments; and it is to be hoped our gracious Sovereign will one day honour it with her presence, that so much good feeling and taste may not be doomed "to waste its sweetness on the desert air,"—though this can hardly be the case since, H. R. H. Prince Albert and the highest functionaries of State have frequently visited and admired this former abode of royalty.

Captain Manning entertained us from his large store of historical information and general knowledge, and he mentioned some facts connected with the Geology of Portland Island, which particularly deserved attention.

Professor Buckland appears to have been a frequent and welcome visitor, and was first attracted to the Island by the discovery of a fossil Boar's Head, supposed to be of British origin, and now in Captain Manning's possession.

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It appears that in the year 1844, some *human bones* were discovered on the ledges of a fissure in a quarry belonging to Mr. Weston, at different depths from 25 to 40 feet; these fissures run parallel with each other throughout the Island from north-east to south-west, at stated distances varying from 45 to 60 feet, and the quarry men say that they always know when they are coming near to them from the form the upper layers of loose stone and rubble assume, losing their longitudinal stratification, and having all the appearance of having been dragged out of their position by a mighty rush of water from above into the fissure: these fissures do not extend to the surface soil by 5 or 10 feet, and run down to the blue clay through the several strata of stone, &c. to the depth of from 80 to 100 feet, having many ledges or shelves in them, and generally covered with stalactical formations. On several of these ledges a number of bones of all kinds of animals were found, including those of the human species: these were preserved and shewn by Captain Manning to the Professor on his next visit to the Castle; but the Doctor having doubts as to the place where they were found, accompanied Captain Manning to the fissure, where a lad was let down, and brought up more of the bones in his presence; when pressed to give some explanation as to the manner of their deposit, he said he could only suppose they must have got in longitudinally, but that the question was full of difficulty, and from his manner and silence on the subject it may be argued this *fact* was evidently opposed to all his preconceived *notions* on the subject.

Professor Buckland stated as his opinion, that the mass of matter of which the Island of Portland is composed, on "drying" cracked, and so formed these fissures; but how is it that these cracks did not extend up to the surface soil, where the evaporation must have been greatest, and where there appears no trace of them? The general appearance which exists of the various strata (widely differing in substance) having been deposited at remote periods from each other, tends to render this theory doubtful.

Several teeth, and a tusk of an Elephant, *primi genus*, have recently been discovered in the "dirt bed" of the Portland quarries.

Ecclesiastical Mural Paintings.

August 16th.

Sir,—I do not agree with An Architect in his observations concerning "Fresco paintings on the walls of Churches." (see "Current Notes," No. XIX. page 57.) I do not see where lies the cant, nor yet the quackery, neither do I see what religion has got to do with it, nor can I find that there is any call for such declamation at the present period, unless it be to provoke an answer, or to let the world know he is one of the "Righteous over much." He confesses that he is no Archæologist; then why should he presume to denounce what Archæologists admire, and say it is all cant and quackery? if he does not agree with them, let him hold his tongue, and not thrust his impertinence on the world.

These Mural Paintings, I am quite willing to admit, are barbarous representations; but their preservation, whether it be on the walls of our churches, or on the parchment vellums of our public libraries, when examined and careful comparisons made amongst those of similar design, often leads to the explanation of some ancient ceremony or superstition still extant—or perhaps the individual representation to that particular locality. But if all the Mediæval manuscripts in our public libraries were destroyed, according to the spirit in which your Correspondent views "Mural Paintings" and "Mediæval Art," it would be quite right; nevertheless, he takes the trouble to depict some of these grotesque paintings in your "Current Notes," for which I heartily thank him, and consider his deeds belie his words.

Mr. Willis. An Archæologist.

Mural Painting in Churches.

Sir,—Your last number of *Notes* cannot pass *current* without a demur to the absurd remarks of your Correspondent, "An Architect." He has made so ignorant an onslaught on mediæval mural paintings, that it is evident he neither knows or feels their importance as materials for the history of art in general. That he does really know nothing about them, is evident from his calling them *frescoes*. Now they are but mural paintings in *distemper* colours, as all are that are found in England. He abuses his examples as disgusting and barbarous, but that applies to his cuts rather than the originals; they are evidently loose copies, and do not preserve the character of mediæval works. Among the series to which he refers is a figure, of which I enclose a sketch, remarkable for dignity and propriety of treatment, and very characteristic in its style. Has your correspondent ever looked into Ottley's "History of Art in Italy," and seen how important are the early frescoes there? Would he whitewash the Campo Santo? or spare Giotto, Cimabue, or Fra Angelico? If such is the taste of an "Architect," I am glad to subscribe myself,

Mr. Willis. An Archæologist.

[G. W. *regrets, as this communication was received at the moment of making up for press, that time does not permit his having the beautiful drawing, so full of true artistic feeling, which accompanied it, engraved, but he will forward it to his Correspondent,* "An Architect," *and it will perhaps induce him to view mural paintings in a different light.*]

Hood on Albums.

Acknowledgment to all that here may look,
Behold—it shows I'm honest to the letter,
I've wrote my name, dear Girl, within *your book*,
To prove I am eternally your Debtor.

T. Hood.

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Bishop Booth.

11th August.

The Episcopal throne in the choir of Exeter Cathedral was erected by Bishop Booth, who is erroneously said in some histories of that City, as well as in Westcote's Devonshire, to have been buried in the church of St. Clement-Danes, London. His

MONUMENTAL BRASS

exists in the Village Church of East Horsley in Surrey, and affords a good specimen of the workmanship of the fifteenth century. In the inscriptions beneath it is recorded that he died on the 5th April, 1478.

Devonensis.

H. T. W.'s enquiry respecting the Westons of West Horsley in your last "Notes," reminds me of this circumstance.

The Westons of West Horsley.

July 30th, 1852.

Sir,—In answer to your Bengal correspondent's enquiry (Current Notes for July), I have to tell him that the above family have never borne any other coat than that first placed in his letter; viz. "sable—three leopards' heads erased, argent — crowned, or—langued gules"—with the same crest—("a wolf passant, argent —ducally gorged, or")—that he has placed over the second coat, which is that borne by a junior branch of the family, resident for a long period in the same county (Surrey), but which I believe to be now extinct.

The reason of the introduction of a chevron, or any other ordinary into a paternal coat, was in the days he alludes to, to distinguish the different members of a family in the field of battle, and he is well informed as to its being a very common thing, as coat armour at that period was not essentially hereditary, and was chiefly adopted with any device, at the caprice of the bearer. Ordinaries have subsequently been used as marks of cadency.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Mr. Willis. S. J. T.

Etymon, &c. of the word Mistletoe.

Vicarage, Southwick, near Oundle,
Aug. 4, 1852.

Sir,—I have the pleasure of sending you the result of my researches on the etymology and mystical meaning of this parasitical plant.

The Saxon is *mis-tel-ta*; the signification of which cannot be ascertained in that language.

By taking away the verbal part *ta*, we have the German, Danish and Swedish *mis-tel*, the mistletoe.

The Gaelic name for this plant forms a singular link and clue to its real meaning: it is *uile-ice*, the mistletoe, the *all-heal*, "lus sior uaine a tharuingeas a bhith o phlannt eile," *an* EVER-GREEN *tree that draws its existence from another plant*. It evidently refers us to the Saxon Se Hælend, the Healer, the Saviour of mankind.

The Saxon *mis-tel-ta* is a compound of three Sanscrit words, viz. *Mas*, Vishnu, (the Messiah); *tal*, a pit, (metaph. the womb); and *tu*, motion *to* or *from*: therefore *mistelta*, comprises the whole of the time from the conception to the birth of our blessed Saviour; and seems to have been subsequently applied to him during his helpless infant state: of this, I think, I have a proof in a painting of the holy family in my possession, where the top of Joseph's staff is encircled with, I believe, the loranthus europæus in blossom, the ἰξος of the Greeks, and what seems to be explanatory of the wrong translation of *ta* into *toe* is, that Mary holds one of the great toes of the infant gracefully between her forefinger and thumb. Another proof is, if I mistake not,

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in Cuperi Harpocrates, where a peculiar amulet is described in the words of Kircher, thus: "Capsula est in forma *cordis*, et *fructum foliumque* Perseæ mentiens." I forbear to comment on the word *cordis;* it is sufficient for my present purpose to notice, that under the feet of the infant Horus or the Messiah, labia digito prementem, is a plant resembling the mistelta.

In a note, I have somewhere seen, it is said that the mistletoe (or as I would rather spell it *mistelto*) was sacred to Venus: but from reading the death of Baldur the good, in Mallet's Northern Antiquities by Blackwell, p. 446, v. 6, it does not appear to be the case; for Friga, the wife of Odin, thinks the plant too insignificant to be noticed, which would not probably have been the case had it been dedicated to her. Refer to the Edda Rythmica, Fiol-Svinns Mal, stanza 39, v. 6, and you will find that the *Virgin* Eir might have been more properly selected, and probably answers to the promised woman who should become the envied mother of the Messiah: her name signifies *salus*, securitas, indulgentia, *gratia*, *venia*, *pax;* all which titles are applicable to him who should be born of *the* pure virgin.

The Ivy and Mistelto being *ever-greens* denote everlasting life through faith in the promised Messiah; and its dependence on *a tree* for sustenance, &c. has its mystic meaning, and when found on the king of trees, the oak, would be considered as the most sacred of its kind, and would typify the dependence upon, and the unsearchable bond existing between God, the Father and the Word.

Kissing under the mistelto has now lost its import; its primary meaning is obvious: I believe the זמרה the branch, Ezekiel viii. 17, refers to the mistelto, the *viscum* in Virgil, Æn. 6, v. 205; but the Hebrew signifies a branch not torn off, nor broken off, but *cut* from the tree.

The Druids who also worshipped Isis ("At Isidi tanquam virgini Druidæ statuam in intimis penetralibus colocasse animadvertit Elias Schedius." Alph. Tibet. p. 56.) seem to have had a knowledge of the recondite meaning of this most sacred plant. Consult Sir Thomas Browne's Vulgar Errors, Hone's Every-day Book, and Armstrong's Gael. Dict. *uile-ice.*

I am, Sir, your's very truly,

T. R. Brown.

P. S. I thank Mr. Rogers for noticing the Hebrew letter Thau; see p. 62 of last month's "Current Notes." It enables me to remark that T is a letter derived from the Chinese into the Egyptian hieroglyphs, and into our own language, and signifies *perfection*, *God*, and is an emblem of God the Father. The Coptic [T] God, is the figure of the cross, on which his Son was crucified.

Q. S. T. p. 60 of the same No. has given us an idea which leads to the *occult* meaning of the word *cweorn*, viz. that it is associated with *churn.* A few days since I saw the operation of a *quern* in a grocer's shop. The *receiver* resembled the upper part of an egg-cup, and the *grinder* a pestle, with which some coffee was, by friction, instantly *ground* for my approval. If Q. S. T. is desirous of knowing more on the subject, I shall be glad to inform him if he will write a line and give me his direction.

Mr. Willis. T. R. Brown.

The Cross or Monogram of Christ.

The annexed figure is the representation of the primitive cross, as discovered in the Catacombs, engraved or painted by the first Christians. The X. P. express Χειρ Ρυστου (*Keir Rustou*), "*The hand of the Deliverer or Redeemer.*" The Christ. But the same figure, through a Latin and hieroglyphic reading, indicates the human hand, as P "pollex" *the thumb*, X. *the four digits or fingers*, and the palm branches denote *the palm of the hand.* This is an intellectual contrast to the blood red impression of the natural hand of the ancient Mexicans, and to the more modern substitution of the wooden cross of crucifixion and death, and of human degradation, as the legal instrument of executions, to which Christ nailed the law. This figure of the spiritual cross indicating the cross of redemption and life through the intellect and hand of man.

When fishes are substituted for the palm branches it indicates "The hand of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ—the Sacrifice," as "Ie-sous Christos; Thusia."—abbreviated "IC—thus."

Human Progress.

The senses, the faculties, and the physical powers, as synonymous with hundreds, tens and units, progressively ascend through their respective valuations from 4 to 6 and to 8. Therefore in combination of the physical, moral and intellectual systems, they advance, *pari passu*, from 444, the number of the Beast (biest *strength*), to 666, the number of Man, and to 888, which latter numbers correspond with the letters "*Iesous*" in the Greek alphabetic numeration, as also the numbers 444 with the letters p i u s.

Saphenio.

June, 1852.

Mystical Meaning of the Hebrew Letter Taw.

9th August, 1852.

Sir,—With reference to two articles which have appeared among your "Current Notes" for the last month, p. 59 and p. 62, you will oblige me by expressing to your Correspondents, the Rev. T. R. Brown, and Mr. G. G. Rogers Rogers (the latter of whom, I think, I recognize as an old College friend), my sincere thanks for their communications. I can now perfectly comprehend the import of the gem which I picked up while travelling in the East, and which is evidently a work of

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early Christian art. The I above the Taw (ת) denoting the initial of the Saviour, the cross beneath his sufferings.

Of Paradin's little book I have since seen a copy, which wants the title page, and has this manuscript notation in its place, "*Très rare et toujour incomplet.*"

Mr. Willis. F. W. W.

The Eboracon of the Athenæum.

Regent's Park, July 31st, 1852.

Sir,—The statement made so positively by the *Athenæum* has, I perceive, attracted the notice of the *York Herald*, the editor of which confirms what must be known to every antiquary, that Mr. Wright was quite correct, and that no book called *Eboracon* was ever printed. I think it can be proved that the fact was lately well known to the *Athenæum*, and as the matter belongs to the "curiosities of literature," I may be allowed to give my reasons for believing that the writer must have forgotten the opinion he himself gave or sanctioned respecting *Eburacum*. When the Archæological Institute met at York, the book in question was publicly given to the body by Mr. Way, who was then acting with Mr. Peter Cunningham as Secretary, or at all events the latter gentleman was on the Committee under the auspices of which the following was printed (p. xvii. of Proceedings of the General Committee at York):—"Albert Way, Esq. then rose, and having alluded to the excellent manner in which the history of this city has been described in the days of the Romans, by the Rev. C. Wellbeloved [he hardly meant that Mr. W. lived in the time of the Romans!] and the regret which the Society must feel at his unavoidable absence from their proceedings, presented a copy of the work EBURACUM written by that gentleman as a donation to the library of the Institute." Now, Sir, no one acquainted with the literature of the present day in England can be ignorant that Mr. Peter Cunningham is one of the main props of the *Athenæum* and that the *Athenæum was* the main prop of the Institute, therefore how could either the one or the other, or both, affect not to know the above work? Eburacum was not privately printed as the reviewer states *Eboracon* was.

I am Sir, yours obediently,

Mr. Willis. L. F. G.

Scarborough, August 2nd, 1852.

Sir,—Will you satisfy me and a friend if there really be such a book as Wellbeloved's 'Eboracon,' as asserted so positively by the Athenæum of July 17th. We doubt it, because that Journal in matters of antiquity has made some most singular blunders, and yet this would be such a damning conviction of ignorance, pure and unadulterated, that we think there possibly may be such a book as the editor of the Athenæum *so positively* asserts. Can you get us a copy?

Mr. Willis. George Rivers.

American Imagery and Eloquence.

(Abridged from the Lowell Courier.)

"Ralph Waldo Emerson's ideas will live for ever," said an American orator—"while Webster's ideas will die with him. Emerson's ideas have force, have power, but not so with Webster's." "That's a lie," said "Mat," "and you know it. *If one of Daniel Webster's big thoughts got into Ralph Waldo Emerson's head, it would split it open like a pitcher with ice in it!* Now get off the bench, for you can't say anything more in this shop against 'Old Dan.'"

American Go-a-Headism.

New York, 109, Broadway, Post Office.

Mr. Willis,—You have admitted into your "Current Notes" for July, 1852 (p. 63), an insinuation respecting the "*American improvement of the English language*," which demands a reply.

In the first place, Sir, I know you have received the inclosed cutting from the *Boston Transcript*, of 30th June last:—

"The American Language.—An Englishman, perusing an American newspaper, exclaimed impatiently, on noticing some of Webster's orthographical improvements,—'These people ought to be denied the use of the English language, if they cannot treat it better.' '*English* language?' echoed a Yankee, without removing the cigar from between his teeth, 'guess you'er mistaken, hoss; it's the American language.' 'American?' repeated the wondering Englishman. 'Guess it's that,' said Jonathan, coolly, 'we've annexed it.'—*Hartford Times.*"

Now, if you have such historians as Lord Mahon—and patronize him—do so by all means.

And if you like Dickens, and his style of language, keep it to yourselves. Sitting in a Church, he says, reminds him of "a mild dose of opium." And with an equally pious feeling, and correct taste, he is reminded that the ordinary mode of washing a petticoat in Italy, France, Scotland, or Ireland, by beating with a wooden mallet, is as if the poor washerwomen *revenged themselves on dress in general for being connected with the fall of mankind.* Again, Dickens, whose pages smell strongly of theatrical lamp and tramp, assimilates the Swiss guards of the Pope, to "theatrical supernumeraries, who never *can* get off the stage fast enough, and who may be generally observed to linger in the enemy's camp after the open country, held by the opposite forces, has been *split up the middle by a convulsion of nature.*"

Lord Mahon's style of writing the English language, however deficient his Lordship's knowledge or his reading may be, is certainly superior to this slang. His Lordship is a Gentleman, Mr. Dickens a Snob. And if you English have a snobbish taste, and like to have a snobbish style, and patronize it, take it; but keep it from us by all means. We, on the other side of the

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Atlantic, want to have English "transformed," or rather restored "so as to be fit for publication in America."

For "Willis's Current Notes."

Lord Mahon's History of England.

Canterbury, 11th August, 1852.

Sir,—I understand that our American friends are very wrath with our historian for the manner in which he has descanted on American affairs in his History, and have published a critical pamphlet thereupon. Can you tell me where it is to be obtained?

Mr. Willis. J. S.

[G. W. *has not seen a copy, although several copies are in private circulation, and it is Lord Mahon's intention to publish a reply.*]

Architectural Slang.

9th August.

Mr. Willis,—If your Correspondent "An Architect," with whose sensible remarks in the last Number to "Current Notes," I entirely agree respecting the removal of offensive paintings from the walls of Protestant churches, and you too have done good service to Christianity by exposing cant and hypocrisy, would inform me how we are to get rid of another piece of Archæological Slang, he would do a great favour to many by whom I have been consulted in the matter, namely, what makes the difference between the Saxon and the Norman pieces of Architecture? And what is it that people call Gothic? and Tudor? and so on.

Let us take an example. I am told that the Saxon arch is semi-circular.

Well, these arches are so; and yet this doorway is called Norman. Again, I am told that the Gothic Arch is formed by two Saxon arches intersecting each other, or two semi-circles cutting through each other at an equal space from the base of each. This is all clear enough. But when I see square, round and oval cutting one against the other, how am I to understand the matter, or what am I to say to the Architect who has come down to alter our Church, who speaks of uniformity of style and the mezzo-Gothic aberrations of angles?

The Senior Church Warden.

Walks after Wild Flowers.

Alas! for fame, Mr. Willis. Alas! for all the nice books on Botany that I get from you. Alas! for your Ornamental Flower Garden and Shrubbery, and for your new Medical and Scientific Herbal. Think of my reading in your last "Price Current of Literature," received this very morning, (28th July) "Richard's (R. D.) Walks after Wild Flowers, or the Botany of the Bohereens." So having rather an extensive acquaintance with Botanists and Botanical writers, I began to wonder who Mr. Richard could be, and at last I found that he must be an ex-Mayor of Cork, named Dowden, and who distinguished himself in the absence of the present Mayor when the American Minister (the Hon. Abbot Lawrence) visited "the beautiful City," by an excellent speech.

The Dowden family being rather numerous in Cork, the Author of the Botany of the Bohereens, placed the Christian name of his father Richard after his surname, and so became the Richard Dowden Richard, celebrated by Crowe, Maginn and others in Blackwood's Magazine about the years 1820 and 21. And I think in your "Current Notes," Mr. Willis, No. III. for March, 1851 p. 22, I recognize from the pen of Alderman Dowden, an Anecdote of "the Doctor."—The

> "*Cicero Dowden*, who spouts by the hour,
> Of all the tongue-waggers the pink and the flower,
> And Jennings the bold, who has challenged so long
> All the Nation for brisk soda water and song."
> *Blackwood's Magazine*, August 1821, p. 102.

Popular Rhymes.

Sir,—Your correspondent B. N. seems to be in error in commenting in last month's "Notes," (p. 61.) on the motto of a Yorkshire token,

> "Strike light
> Weigh right."

He says, "the first line seems somewhat obscure, but I suppose it to be a technical phrase used by bakers in drawing their loaves." The word 'strike' is still in use in Wales, and probably in many parts of England, to denote a *measure*, of corn, for instance, it being a

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common custom to *strike* the measure with a rod to make the top even when filled. The meaning therefore is "measure justly, weigh correctly."

If you think this trifle of any importance, you can insert it in your next.

From your obedient servant,

H. I. R.

NOTES ON YOUR NOTES, MR. G. W.

MR. WILLIS,—P. 61, (July 1852), "The Rhyme," on Will Wakelin's Token cannot be well understood without hearing the vernacular pronunciation of the town's name, as it is shortened a syllable "UCHETOR," the accent on the first syllable, and the final *e* very indistinct; the rhyme, however, is even then a poor one.

I. B.

AUTOMATON CHESS PLAYER.

SIR,—In Natural Magic, by Sir D. Brewster, published in the *Family Library*, there is a long account of the Automaton, with eleven woodcuts shewing the position of the person concealed, pages 269—282, fig. 66—76.

I remain yours most truly,

Mr. Willis. JAMES BLADON.

August 10th.

SIR,—You are entirely in error in what you have stated about your namesake's pamphlet on the subject of the Automaton Chess Player—this I can assure you of, and I should like to know who could possibly have made such a strange communication to you.

Mr. Willis. S. T. A.

G. W. thinks that he can readily satisfy his Correspondent that he and not G. W. is ENTIRELY *in error.*

ENQUIRY.

Edward Street, August 1, 1852.

SIR,—Can any of your readers kindly inform me who was the author of "A Narrative of Political and Military Transactions of British India?" excuse the trouble.

Yours truly,

A. F. P. K.

G. W. *has heard the Authorship attributed to a gentleman now mentally deceased. If so, the enquiry is a painful one.*

ATLAS OF EPOCHS.

Edinburgh, 9th August, 1852.

The Atlas "T. W." is in search of is "Quin's Historical Atlas," published about 1835.

Mr. Willis. T. B. J.

ATLAS OF EPOCHS.

Coventry, July 30, 1852.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent T. W.'s enquiry respecting an "Atlas of Epochs" (in your Current Notes for this Month), I beg to inform him that he will find the most satisfactory information in the following work, "The Historical Atlas by EDWARD QUIN, Esq. M.A., of Oxford and Lincoln's Inn." It contains 21 highly finished coloured maps, with letter-press illustrations. As suggested, they are all upon the same scale, and point out in succession from the Creation to the present time, the progress of geographical discovery, the rise and fall of states and empires, and the political changes through which they have passed. It forms a well condensed epitome of history, the value of which to a student can hardly be over-estimated. The last edition (the 4th) is the largest and most complete, It is published in imperial 4to. price £3. 10s. half bound.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Mr. Willis. H. O.

ENGRAVED PORTRAIT.

MR. WILLIS,—There is an engraving occasionally to be met with of a lady, three-quarter length, standing beside a fountain. Can any of your contributors tell me where this engraving is to be obtained, and from whose painting it is a copy? I should be further pleased to know who it is a portrait of, and if the original painting is in existence. Any information on these points will oblige yours truly,

RATHARM H. GRISTNER.

Starcourt, July 20th, 1852.

NEW EDITION OF SHAKESPEARE!!

Cambridge, 6th July.

SIR,—The paragraph in the last number of your Monthly Current Notes (No. XIX.) respecting Mr. Halliwell's projected edition of Shakespeare has created much attention amongst Shakespearean Students, and if carried out in the spirit in which it is designed, as I presume Mr. H. intends to give everything of any value culled from the long and very tedious list of *Shakespeariana*, besides his own Collections, the work, especially with Mr. Fairholt's illustrations, must form the most noble tribute to the Poet's memory which has ever been produced.

Allow me, however, to ask through your columns the name of the unique tract which cost Mr. H. upwards of £60., and which appears oddly enough, to have escaped the research of Mr. J. P. Collier, the learned V. P. of the Society of Antiquaries? I think Mr. Halliwell should have given us this information in his prospectus.

Mr. Willis. C. R. K.

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Holograph and Autograph.

August 2nd, 1852.

Sir,—I am rather sorry that "Johnson by Todd," (see Current Notes for last month, p. 58) did not continue his explanation of the two words "Holograph" and "Autograph," making his stop at the former; for the latter derived from the Latin signifies "Writing, entirely in one hand." Now, where is the difference between the two words?

A manuscript page of an author's work is Holograph as well as Autograph, without any necessity for a signature; the former word, however, being very pedantic.

According to his version, the various interesting sales of Messrs. Puttick, Sotheby, and others, should be called, "Sales of Holograph Letters," most of the lots being entirely written and signed by celebrated characters.

Like your querist, the "Young country collector of MS." (see C. N. for June last, p. 55), I also much wish rightly to understand it.

Yours truly,

Mr. Willis. E.

Lettres Cherakeesiennes.

Edinb. 14th July, 1852.

Sir,—I will be glad if any of your correspondents can inform me who was the author of "Lettres Cherakeesiennes," par Rufus, un Sauvage Européen, Rome 1760.

I have been informed that these "Lettres" were written by Voltaire, but do not find them mentioned in any list of his works.

Yours respectfully,

Mr. Willis. B. G.

Hone's History of Parody.

Liverpool, 3rd August, 1852.

Sir,—I find advertisements issued by Hone at the back of some of his political pamphlets, announcing a History of Parody, compiled by himself. Was such a work ever executed?

Your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. M. L.

The Veterans of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies.

In the Royal, there are five Fellows alive, who were admitted previous to the commencement of the present Century. Rogers, the Poet, is one of these five F.R.S.'s. In the Antiquaries there are no less than seven old boys alive this day (5th August, 1852), and Rogers is also one of these, and the second in recorded seniority.

Yours, Mr. Willis,

F. R. ASS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. E. communication on Earl St. Vincent's Motto, Mr. Crofton Croker's on Daniel O'Rourke, "K's" on Franks and Franking, and "Walker, Jun." in type, but must stand over. R. B. New York, 7th August, received, regret his accident. Mr. Squier will return by steamer of the 25th, and will certainly take news up to 21st. L. B. introduced yesterday. The artist out of town.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Burdakin, James, Rev. M.A. Hebrew Scholar. (Cambridge Examiner). Elmsett, Suffolk. 20th June.

Clarke, Mary Ann, Mrs. Novelist, Political Pamphleterer and Courtezan. (In 1813 this woman was tried for libel before Lord Ellenborough, who not hearing her answer repeated the question, "Under whose protection are you now living, madam?" "I had hoped under Lord Ellenborough's," was the memorable reply. Nine months' imprisonment followed this piece of witty wicked impertinence to the Bench.) Boulogne. 21st June. Aged 74.

Cullimore, Isaac, M.R.S.L. Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquary. Clapham. 12th April. Aged 61.

D'Orsay, Alfred (Count), Artist. Rue Ville-l'Evêque, Paris. 4th August. Aged 53.

Feuchères. Sculptor. Paris. 7th June.

Granger, Thomas Colpitts, Legal writer, (M.P. for Durham, Q. C. and Recorder of Hull). York. 5th August. Aged 58.

Harris, Miss. Authoress of "From Oxford to Rome." 24th June. *Query* Mrs.?

Hissinger, Wilhelm. Geologist, (48 years Member of the Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, and several times its President. The Patron of Berzelius). Aged 86.

Johannot, Tony. Artist. Paris. 4th August. Aged 49.

Langsdorff, George Frederick (Baron de). Botanist and Traveller. Friburg, Grand Duchy of Baden. Aged 78.

Lennie, William. Works on Education. Edinburgh. 20th July. Aged 73.

Manson, William. (Firm of Messrs. Christie and Manson, Auctioneers of Pictures, &c. King Street, St. James's.) No. 5, Portugal Street, Grosvenor Square. 19th June. Aged 46.

Rampold, Doctor. Anatomist. Ealingen, Bavaria. Murdered 29th July.

Savage, James. Architect and Engineer. (Designer of St. Luke's Church, Chelsea, where his remains were interred on the 12th May.) 7th May. Aged 74.

Scrope, William. Works on Deer Stalking and Salmon Fishing. 13, Belgrave Square. 21st July. Aged 81.

Thomson, Thomas, M.D. F.R.S. Science. (Regius Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, and President of the Glasgow Philosophical Society) Kilmun, Argyleshire. 2nd August. Aged 80.

Vincent, John Painter. Surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Woodlands Manor, Wortham, Kent. 17th July. Aged 75.

Wulfsberg, Niels. Journalist. (Chief Keeper of the Archives of Norway). Aged 67.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XXI.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [SEPTEMBER, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

MOTTO OF THE EARL ST. VINCENT.

DEAR SIR,—I have no motive in sending you the seal and motto chosen by Earl St. Vincent, and the explanation thereof, beyond that of presuming you would feel interested in the subject as a matter of general information. I have neither a desire nor an objection to the subject, in any shape you please, appearing in the "Current Notes."

"THUS," in nautical phrase, is understood to signify straight forward, or right a head, and the orders given to the steersman when he must not deviate from the point, but proceed straight forward, *thus*. Lord St. Vincent was celebrated for his straightforward conduct; upon all occasions he spoke his sentiments freely, and won all hearts by the plain manly straightforward dealing both with officers and men under his command. The motto, therefore, chosen for him by his sister, when the Admiral was raised to the Peerage, was deemed appropriate, and after the general fashion of mottos, had a double meaning. In the Peerage a fanciful derivation is given, attempting to prove that the word *thus* stands for frankincense, and frankincense for religion. Depend upon it, however, that I have given you the true history, as related to me by the lady who inherits his Lordship's name, and on whom are entailed the estate at Cheshunt, granted, I think, by Parliament to the Earl St. Vincent; of that I am not quite sure, but as to the origin of the motto and its significance, you may rely on this statement of your obliged, &c. C. E.

P.S. The term *Thus*, in naval phraseology, is that when a ship is sailing on the wind or close to the wind. The Quartermaster who stands up on the weather side of the quarter deck, calls out to the helmsman when he has brought the ship as close to the wind as is possible without throwing her a-back (which is a very awkward predicament to be placed in, and gives a vast deal of trouble) "Very well *Thus*," or in other words no higher. The word "Dice" is of late years more commonly used, but I think the old term best. C. A., R.N.

DEAR SIR,—The above more clearly explains the motto "Thus," in reference to which I troubled you with a letter yesterday.

C. E.

DANIEL O'ROURKE.

SIR,—As I perceive from your Current Notes that there is some discussion going on respecting the story of Daniel O'Rourke, with which my name has been mixed up, I will confide to you all that I know respecting the origin of that popular story.

The primitive idea, which makes children cry for the moon, is the foundation of it—at least of its principal incident, the flight on the eagle. In all times, people have longed after what Milton calls

> "Imagined lands and regions in the moon,"

and it was only natural that poets should seize upon the fancy of flying to that island in the sky. Indeed the late Mr. Moore told me, that Daniel O'Rourke, odd as it may seem, suggested to him the idea of those beautiful words

> "Oh! had we some bright little Isle of our own,"

which he has in the fifth Number of his Irish Melodie adapted to the air of Sheela na Guira. Bishop Wilkin seriously estimated the probabilities of getting to the moon; but balloons have proved what mathematicians had before calculated, that the project of the learned bishop is but a dream, and fit only for the poets.

Tales of flights to the moon exist in the Sanscrit, which appears to be the original language of fable; and from thence this conceit has spread throughout the literature of the East and of Greece. In the popular legends of all countries where large birds abound, flights upon eagle-back are common, and seem to have given rise to the more classical fancy of winged horses, and therefore Daniel O'Rourke was no misnomer for the recent winner of the Derby.

To modern Europe, the idea of soaring to the moon, was, I believe, introduced by Ariosto in his whimsical account of Astolpho's Journey in quest of the brains of Orlando. That a very intimate acquaintance with both the literature and music of Italy was cultivated, from the beginning to nearly the close of the last century, in Ireland is sufficiently proved by the Memoirs of Lord

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Charlemont, the works of Mr. Cooper Walker, &c. and it may not be saying too much to add, that the Italian language was at that period more familiarly known, and consequently the works of Italian writers were more the subject of ordinary conversation among a certain circle in Dublin, than they ever have been among any corresponding circle in London.

When this is kept in mind, Daniel O'Rourke, who on his eagle sits

——— "as stiff
As Sir Astolpho on his hippogriff,"

appears to be only a free and jocular Irish parody on Ariosto.

My friend, Mr. Prior, in the second edition of his Life of Burke, has attributed—I know not on what authority—the invention of Daniel O'Rourke to a Mr. Doyle, a surgeon, who moved in the very pleasant and intellectual society of Dublin, about a century since. Whether he was the author or not can now only be matter of conjecture; but there is a traditionary story of his introduction to Quin, who had expressed a wish to see a specimen of an Irish peasant, which supports Mr. Prior's assertion.

Doyle, dressed in the proper costume of the character he had to personate, was brought before a merry party, where Quin in the full tide of humour reigned paramount, according to his custom. The mock rustic acted his part with becoming awkwardness; but bandied jest for jest with "the huge leviathan."

"You're a droll fellow, my man," at last said Quin; "you remind me of a story I once heard;" and Quin told it accordingly to the delight of the company.

"Well then," said Doyle, "your honour reminds me of another; and—" How the connexion was brought about is not related; but Doyle told the story of Daniel O'Rourke, which was received with shouts of laughter; and it is needless to say the deception was not carried on much longer.

Whatever the source of the story may have been, it became orally very popular, and was a particular favourite in the South of Ireland. I have been told that it was printed in a miscellany published somewhere in Scotland about 1790, but I never saw it in print before my version.

One of your Correspondents, A. (March, Notes, p. 18), states that it may be found in Dr. Anderson's "Bee," for January 1794, p. 338. Another, W. B. (June, Notes p. 55) in the "Dundee Repository." And I have no doubt of the accuracy of both these statements. In 1820 it certainly did appear in the most popular of all Scotch miscellanies—Blackwood's Magazine—agreeably versified by the late Mr. Samuel Gosnell of Cork, and not improbably touched up by the late Doctor Maginn; but, as usual with poems in ottava rima, considerably dilated by humourous and sometimes highly poetical digressions.

I remain, Sir, your humble servant,
T. Crofton Croker.

3, Gloucester Road, Old Brompton.
Mr. Willis.

Franks and Franking.

August 3, 1852.

Sir,—With reference to "A Modern Collector" and his enquiry respecting franks and franking in your May number, page 38, I have been hoping to find some notice taken by one at least of the very numerous collectors there are of such, some of whom, doubtless, have gathered information as to origin, &c.

As I could never see the interest in forming such a collection, I have contented myself by keeping in one volume those of really eminent characters, or possessing interest from their antiquity.

Tracing them back as far as I can, I come to the facsimile of Sir Isaac Newton's thirteen interesting letters to John Covell, D.D. rescued from oblivion by Mr. Dawson Turner, a copy of which he kindly sent me, these bear date Feb. 3, 1688, at that period with a frank, no date was used, being simply,

For the
Rev. Dr. John Covell,
Vicechancellour of the
University of
Cambridge.

Frank
Is. Newton.

I perceive no material alteration until one of Sir Armine Wodehouse, 1745,

Mr. Johosh. Postle,
an Attorney-at-Law,
in St. Paul's
Norwich,
by way of Yarmouth.

Free
A. Wodehouse.

In 1780 a similar form is used, and I also observe about this period that it was only necessary for the person privileged to sign his name with "Free" at the corner, the direction being often written by another. About 1787 the dating with name of place commenced and so continued until it ceased January 9, 1840.

The privilege seems to have been greatly abused (when unlimited I believe) for I perceive in an old newspaper of 1795 the following question is asked in the House of Commons, "If a Member of Parliament accepts a "salary of £300. per annum for franking the letters of "a banking house, is not that selling his freedom?" I wish some of your Correspondents could give me some information respecting the franks in Ireland prior to the Union.

Yours faithfully,
Mr. George Willis. "K."

Holograph and Autograph.

July 30, 1852.

Sir,—I cannot altogether agree with the two last explanations of "Johnson by Todd's" reply, and must beg to differ as to a letter only signed, being an auto-

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graph letter: as there can be but little doubt that it is the Holograph or Autograph of *two* persons, the writer of the letter and the party signing.

To explain myself more clearly, let me ask, is it wrong to call a letter written entirely by our Queen, and signed by her, an autograph?

I should much like to have seen G. W. C.'s communication, which you have not inserted, it might have thrown additional light upon a subject I have often heard discussed, and always ending in the two words being considered synonymous.

Yours,

To Mr. Willis. WALKER, Jun.

(In compliance with this wish, G. W. appends G. W. C.'s communication.)

Manchester, July 5th, 1852.

SIR,—The "Young Country Collector of MSS." is informed that "Holograph" means a deed executed, or written *wholly* by the grantor's own hand. It is derived from the two Greek words—ὅλος whole, and γράφω to write.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Mr. Willis. G. W. C.

AUTOGRAPH, APOGRAPH, AND HOLOGRAPH.

August 27, 1852.

SIR,—Your Correspondent E. (Current Notes, August, p. 72) is incorrect in stating that Autograph is derived from the *Latin*, and signifies "Writing *entirely* in one hand." It is derived from the two Greek words αυτος and γραφω, and means, the signature, or original writing of a person (in contradistinction to "Apograph, a copy.") There is an evident difference between the two terms. In using the word Autograph there is a vagueness, an uncertainty; I do not necessarily express whether the deed is partially or wholly in the writer's own hand. In employing the word Holograph there can be no doubt on the subject. Hence it is a term made use of in Scottish law.

Yours, &c.

Mr. Willis. JOHNSON BY TODD.

SIGNATURE COLLECTORS.

Great Russell Street, Aug. 27.

SIR,—With some degree of interest have I read the letters which appeared in your entertaining publication upon the words "Holograph and Autograph."

The "Young Country Collector of MSS." has given the fraternity of "Autograph Collectors" a bone to pick with respect to their hobby, for the words have the same signification, and "Johnson by Todd" was hasty with his conclusions.

My object in now writing is simply to put this question: is not a Collector of MS. the *real* Autograph or Holograph Collector? the other is a mere Collector of *Signatures*, and by that name ought to be called.

It were far better to call any thing by an intelligible name, but sound, I suppose, is a species of fashion, and Autograph is more learned and grand than Signature, hence its adoption.

Your obedient Servant,

Mr. Willis. A.

AUTHOR OF A NARRATIVE OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY TRANSACTIONS OF BRITISH INDIA.

August 27th, 1852.

SIR,—With respect to A. F. P. K.'s question, (Current Notes for this month, p. 71), I have a portrait in the Crowquill style, dated 1838, which I have long been puzzled to make out; it has a facsimile thus:

and author of that work underneath: if you can let me know, I should be obliged.

Mr. Willis. Δ.

ENGRAVED PORTRAIT.

Albany Road, Camberwell, August 28th, 1852.

SIR,—Amongst my portraits I have one after the pen and ink style, I presume from some of the magazines, with this signature affixed: can you enlighten me?

Yours, very obediently,

Mr. Willis. J. C.

ALCHEMISTS.

Edinb. August 19th, 1852.

DEAR SIR,—Your Correspondent, "A Customer and an Alchemist," (Current Notes for July, p. 64) who wishes to find a list of Alchemical books, will see a list of 731 different works on that subject, in a work published in London in 1815, entitled, "The Lives of Alchemystical Philosophers."

There was a collection of the works of the early Alchemists made by Lazarus Zetznerus, bookseller at Strasbourg, and published in 1713 in 5 thick vols. 8vo.

This work contains about 200 treatises on the Philosopher's stone, and is well worth the inspection of those curious about Alchemical matters.

If the above references will be of any use to your Correspondent, I will be very glad.

I remain, yours truly,

Mr. Willis. J. S.

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Bishopsgate, August 30th, 1852.

ENQUIRY. SIR,—Can any of your readers tell me of or about "Francois," "Archiduc d'Autriche d'Este," Modena, 1820?

Mr. Willis. Yours, C.

NURSERY RHYME.

PERHAPS some of the Correspondents whose amusing and ingenious communications to you I find prefixed to your monthly catalogue, under the title of "Current Notes," could tell me if they ever remember to have heard or met with the following nursery rhyme?

"Three Fish and three Lions
Set the King at defiance."

Your constant reader and customer,

Mr. Willis. AMELIA L——

RHYMING LEGENDS.

May not the Inscription around the Antique Gem, figured in the July Number of your "Current Notes," p. 63, read—

CREDITE: SIG (*illo*): EI
SIMO (*nis ipsiu*)S: SPEI.?

Mr. Willis. Q IN THE CORNER.

BERMONDSEY TOKENS.

Borough, 17th August.

MR. WILLIS,—Your Correspondent B. N. may perhaps be able to give me some information respecting Tokens which were issued in this locality—particularly by a person named Keyse, who was the proprietor of certain tea gardens called the Bermondsey Spa, and where a Scenic representation of the Siege of Gibraltar was produced more than half a century ago.

R. T. S.

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS.

SIR,—Your "Senior Churchwarden" Correspondent (see Current Notes for August, p. 70), in asking for the definitions of what he is pleased to term "Architectural Slang," as also the difference between "the pieces of Saxon and Norman Architecture," shows such a want of knowledge of the subject he so unhappily endeavours to criticize, that in answer I would suggest to him, that the most effectual solution for the complained of grievances would be to consult your "Price Current," and from its notice of professional works purchase and carefully peruse such as may tend to enlighten him in matters of which he is now very ignorant; by these means he may also be able to serve a double purpose, in the further shape of being able to understand, and perchance appreciate the language and professional advice of "the Architect who has come down to alter our Church."

Mr. Willis. ONE OF THE PROFESSION.

ECCLESIASTICAL MURAL PAINTINGS.

SIR,—In the last number (XX.) of your Current Notes, the sporting season being at hand, you have allowed by way of practice a brace of Archæologists to pop like a double-barrelled gun at my observations upon Mural Paintings. Off they go at me *bang-bang*. But neither one nor the other of your fulminating barrels have produced much effect in bringing me down at their feet. And so C. M. J. discharges his single shot at me in *the London Weekly Paper* of 28th August, (p. 252.)

"AN ARCHÆOLOGIST," No. 1, appears to be as ignorant of the meaning of *fresco*, as No. 2 supposes me to be. The mistake is so common an expression, that it can scarcely be called by the former name, and rests with whoever headed my communication to you, not with myself. If No. 1 desires to see sacred subjects caricatured, and moreover, feels obliged to you for inserting such specimens of barbarity in your Notes; go on and do so, and I will assist you with the means of obtaining from him a further expression of his thanks—at however, I think what your readers will consider to be the demolition of his taste or your judgment. No. 2's drawing which you had the goodness to send me, and I return to you herewith, I admit to be very beautiful and artistic—but it is quite evident that he has not been looking at home at the Mural Paintings of St. Mary's, Guildford, or St. John's, Winchester; in preference to seeking after abroad and studying the works of Michael Angelo and Raphael. Compare the feeling and beauty of his delineation of the Almighty Creator with this representation, and you will have Archæological cant and quackery at once placed in its true light before you, contrasted with true artistic dignity and power. It is exactly in the same spirit of cant that Archæologists cry up the log-house of an American savage, discovered in the back woods, or the Bog House of Drumkelin (see Archæologia, Vol. xxvi. p. 361), as a work of art worthy of preservation with the Pantheon. Is either of your Correspondents an Architect? I will admit from his drawing No. 2 to be an artist, and his defence of such monstrosities as are suffered to disgrace a few of our English Churches, I confess, surprises me. He is a dreamer—a very clever dreamer, I admit. Surely, the sooner such a composi-

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tion as this, depicting the death of a sinner, before an

executionist, backed by the recording angel, passes away from the popular recollection the better, or its corresponding design, in which two priests are engaged in praying a soul out of Purgatory? I repeat, that these and similar representations are disgusting and unfeeling represen-

tations, and I moreover, will insist against a host of Archæologists, that the sooner pure whitewash does its "sacrilegious work," as they would call it, in concealing them from view, the better it will be for public morals and for public taste.

This, Sir, is my opinion, notwithstanding your Correspondent, No. 1, is pleased to say that if I do not agree with Archæologists, I should "hold my tongue and not thrust my impertinence on the world." Why may I not retort in the same terms? and warn him to be silent and not resemble George Colman's Doctor Panglos, by writing himself down an ASS. as I observe one of your Correspondents (p. 72) has done in sober seriousness. Never was any letter that you have admitted into your columns so illogical, as the one from No. 1. What can public libraries by any possibility have to do with churches, unless we are to have one in the vestry-room of each, or require a new translation of the Sacred Scriptures? Let me tell him that the Protestant Religion does not require "the explanation of some ancient ceremony or superstition still extant." No, Sir. I denounce such cant—such Puseyitism—such hypocrisy—such humbug; and although professing a proper respect for my Church and the faith in which I was educated, I am not as your Correspondent pleases to consider me, "one of the 'Righteous over much.'" No. 1 again says—there is no "call for such declamation at the present period." But have not gangs of Fellows, to some of which, no doubt your Correspondents belong, made the call? Have they not been now for some years going the round of the country, swarming in begging troops—offensively poking their noses with prying spectacles and greedy stomachs beneath them, into the houses of respectable, good-natured, foolish people, to see if they can victimise them for a breakfast—a dinner—a supper—and a guinea?

It is high time that such objectionable proceedings as those carried on by Archæological Societies should be exposed and exhibited in their true light to sober-minded and thinking people as neither more nor less than "*mountebank*" exhibitions (as the "Athenæum," however severely criticised by your Correspondents for a mere printer's error, termed such meetings.) They are worse even than those which occur in, and so frequently disgrace, our senate.

Looking at us from his quiet smoke-dried studio, a German friend of mine writes thus to me: "What have those Archæological Congresses done? Nothing. At every meeting there is a sky-rocket display of vanity and dress — profoundest ignorance and vulgarity of manner—unrivalled personal folly. At them the professed students meet not to measure their reading, their thoughts or their conclusions with facts, local circumstances, and proofs, but to gratify their bodily, not mental, appetite for food and drink — their personal vanity by the hereafter boast of having dined at Duke of this, or Lord of that's table (although it may have even amounted only to breaking bread in the servants' hall), and in driving about with inflated noddles from one place to another—the longest purse leading the way to the exclusion of the real student, who is always shoved aside; such has been my experience of Archæological Congresses in England, although among them may be as *Herr* Willis says in preface to his Notes, Vol. I.,

> "Truthful and thoughtful students of the past
> Who whirl along—not with—the whirling blast."

I am, Sir, AN ARCHITECT.

P. S. If your brace of Archæologists like to have another shot at me, I am still on the wing.

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Campbell's Adelgitha.

Hornsey, Sept. 1, 1852.

Sir,—I have the following lines written and signed by Thomas Campbell, but without a date: can you, or any of your readers give me a clue to them? and oblige

A. K.

Adelgitha.

"The ordeal's fatal trumpet sounded,
And sad pale Adelgitha came;
When forth a valiant champion bounded,
And slew the sland'rer of her fame.

"She wept, deliver'd from her danger:
But when he knelt to claim her glove,
'Seek not,' she cried, 'oh gallant stranger,
For hapless Adelgitha's love.

"'For he is in a foreign far land,
Whose arm should now have set me free,
And I must wear the willow garland,
For him that's dead, or false to me!'

"Nay say not that his faith is tainted!
He raised his vizor—at the sight
She fell into his arms and fainted;
It was indeed her own true knight."

T. Campbell.

Lines in an Album by Sir Martin Shee.

Red Lion Square, August 26, 1852.

Sir,—Several specimens of a similar kind having appeared in your interesting publication, I think the following lines may be acceptable to you, which were written for me.

E. F.

"Fair ladies their albums delight in,
And your autograph ask with a smile
So bewitching, you cannot but write in
Their books in your very best style.

"But the curious when turning their pages,
With wonder will certainly stare,
To think 'mongst wits, poets, and sages,
How my humble name should be there.

"Martin Archer Shee.
"Jan. 30th, 1840."

Automaton Chess Player.

In 1784 was published in 8vo. *Inanimate* Reason, or a circumstantial Account of that astonishing Piece of *Mechanism*, M. de Kempelen's Chess Player, now exhibiting at No. 8, Savill Row, Burlington Gardens, illustrated with three Copper Plates, exhibiting this celebrated Automaton in different points of view.

In 1821 Mr. Booth published, 8vo. An Attempt to Analyse the Automaton Chess Player of Mr. de Kempelen, with an easy Method of imitating the Movements of that celebrated Figure, illustrated with Drawings.*

In this last may be seen all the contrivances and mode of concealment of the living player within the chest. In the Illustrated London News, Dec. 20, 1845, p. 389, may be seen a very good account of the whole.

H. T. E.

Information.

The Weekly Times Newspaper of 29th August, p. 554, gives an extract "From a volume of pamphlets, lettered 'Miscellaneous Sheets,' presented by King George III. to the British Museum," adding, "*The date is* 1846."

A Reader.

French Revolutionary Dates.

August 26, 1852.

Sir,—Would you or some of your readers kindly inform me how the days of the week, months, &c. were called during the period of the French Revolution (at the end of the last century), in other words, how they computed time, changing the names with all else during that era.

I am unfortunately far away now from books of reference, which will, I hope, plead some excuse for one who is completely

Mr. G. Willis. Q in a corner.

Joseph Ashbury.

Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.

Sir,—Can any of your Correspondents favour me with any particulars relative to Joseph Ashbury, an old veteran on the stage, who was Master of the Revels to five monarchs, namely, Charles II., James II., King William, Queen Anne, and George I.?

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Mr. Willis. A Theatrical Amateur.

Sir Charles Wilkins.

28th August, 1852.

Sir,—It would have afforded me sincere gratification to have found in your pages some reply to the letter of "Orientalis" in your June number (page 53) with reference to the late Sir Charles Wilkins and his biography. Having enjoyed his acquaintance and friendship for some years, and I may add in a slight degree derived so much benefit from his truly cheerful conversation and richly stored mind, I can testify how truly interesting a more minute history of his life would be, considering the variety and extent of his great talents, as well as the great characters he was for so many years holding frequent intercourse with; such names as Warren Hastings and Sir William Jones are sufficient to contrast it with the scanty memoirs that are daily published. I still hope his daughters will yet furnish such a memorial, as there must be ample materials in

* *This little work was by Professor Willis.* G. W.

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their possession; and is it not due to one who has so truly distinguished himself in Eastern literature, and must ever be considered an honour to his country?

Yours very obediently,

ORIENTALIS, JUN.

Mr. Willis. Formerly of Haileybury College.

SHAKSPERE HOUSE SUBSCRIPTION.

Southwark, London, August 16th.

SIR,—May I ask of you to be so obliging as to inform me if the accounts of the Subscriptions for Shakspere's House have been audited? If not, to whom can you refer me for information on the subject?

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A SUBSCRIBER.

ALDERMAN DOWDEN AND HIS BOTANY OF THE BOHEREENS.

SIR,—I can readily understand from your Correspondent's statement at p. 70 of your Current Notes for August, the mistake into which you have fallen in cataloguing this work under the name of Richard and not Dowden. But where is Bohereens? I suppose it must be some peculiar district in the neighbourhood of Cork. The Alderman is a clever but strange creature, I hear; in proof of which I send you his manifesto when Mayor of Cork, against the boyish custom of killing wrens and other small birds at Christmas.

Yours truly,

Mr. Willis. T. H.

PREVENT
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

WHEREAS, Complaints having been made that the Public are greatly annoyed on

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY
BY THOSE
STURDY BEGGARS,
WREN BOYS.

I hereby request the intelligent and humane Citizens of Cork, to discourage the unmanly, absurd, and probably

Superstitious practice of
Killing Wrens at Christmas,

By resolutely refusing the demands for money made by those turbulent BIRD BUTCHERS who annually disgrace our streets, and which money is for the most part misspent in DRUNKENNESS and GAMBLING.

Benevolent feeling need not be restrained at this Season, because it resists the importunities of the inconsiderate and vicious; it has scope enough in encouraging Virtuous Festivity and Social Happiness.

Let the people where they can enjoy all Moral, Rational and Healthful Amusements, Excursions with Temperance-Bands, Temperance Tea Parties, and such gratifications may be indulged in with advantage to mind and body; being innocent, they will not be tainted with Shame, Sorrow or Remorse; being laudable and profitable, they will be recollected with pleasure and thankfulness.

RICHARD DOWDEN [RD.]
MAYOR
Vice President of the Temperance Institute.

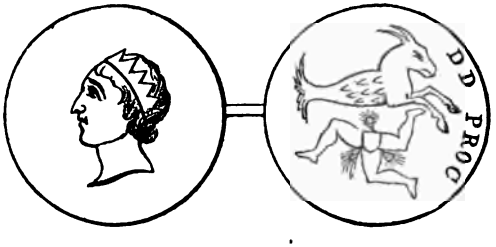
[J. HIGGINS, PRINTER.

December 19th, 1845.

ARMS OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

Vicarage, Southwick, Sept. 2, 1852.

SIR,—In your Current Notes for March 1852, p. 18, you obligingly inserted my paper on the "Arms of the Isle of Man." At that time I supposed the three legs to belong *solely* to that island; but since, I have discovered that the Panormite Sicilians also claim them as *a part* of their arms. After proposing a drawing of the coin as seen in Spanhemii Numismata, c. l. "De Capricorno in Nummis," I will attempt an explanation thereof, confirming more strongly my former conclusions, viz. that there were only *three* CHIEFS of the Magi (but accompanied with, probably, many others of that sect) who worshipped at the birth-place of our blessed Saviour; and that these coins were struck, some considerable time after the probable persecution of the Magi by Herod, to commemorate the event of the birth of the Messiah.



"Tertius vero nummus a Panormitanis Siculis signatus est, et quidem, sicut in eo inscribitur D D Procos, *Decreto Proconsulis*, cum addito consueto Siciliæ typo, et radiato prætera Augusti capite."

We are here reminded of our school days and the Latin Grammar, when repeating the well-known rule, "Imperante Augusto natus est Christus." Whatever the shield-like appearance between the thighs may mean, it is evident that the corn-like procedures are each put for the *Spica Virginis* (originally a stem of *trefoil*), and these are equivalent to the Cornucopia borne by *the* woman called ΕΥΘΗΝΙΑΣ. Above this is Capricorn to denote *the month* in which the Messiah was born. In the coin preceding the present one, THE *star* is placed above the Capricorn, and underneath is written ΑΓΟΥΣΤΑΝΩΝ. We find this to be the subject of *prophecy* in the Babylonian cuneiforms.

To complete the series, I shall, at some future period,

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request you to indulge me by inserting one more coin, which I have seen in Mona, on this subject.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,
T. R. Brown.

To F. W. W.

P.S. In your communication last month, p. 68, 69, you give a very interesting picture of a seal in your possession. If it is engraven on a *precious stone*, it probably refers to a subject connected with religion; and in my opinion the writing is Chinese. Look again —if there are, or have been, three dots under the horizontal line it will read thus: "*Receive under cover the perfection*" (of Religion, viz. the Christian). If my conjecture be right, the gem probably belonged to one of the *first* preachers of Christianity in China, in the *first* century.

Whatever the reading may be, the dots *must* be accounted for.

Mr. Willis. T. R. Brown.

Rhyming Tokens.

Sir,—Your correspondent H. J. R. is very probably correct in his interpretation of the word "Strike," for I am informed that in the "Glossographia Anglicana Nova" is to be found "*strikle*, a stick to strike off corn in measuring;" and in our common Dictionaries "Strike" is designated "a Bushel." But I must protest against his giving to the word "light" the signification of "justly," which, I think, is a sense it can in nowise bear.

I am not, however, yet *convinced* that my own supposition is altogether groundless. "Strike" has a variety of meanings; to "strike work" is to cease or leave off work; to "strike a loaf" is to withdraw it from the oven! Now if the loaf be light or slack baked, it will retain more moisture than if hard baked, and consequently more likely to "weigh right" than if rendered less heavy by too much evaporation; hence it seems a matter of self-interest to any "master of the rolls" to have his bread *struck light*. I am sure your worthy Correspondent will be sensible that there is no other object in this discussion than to elicit truth.

B. N.

Booth Family.

William Booth, 58th Bishop of Lichfield, 1447, and 51st Archbishop of York, 1452; Lawrence Booth, 51st Bishop of Durham, 1457, and 53rd Archbishop of York, 1486; John Booth, 24th Bishop of Exeter, 1466, whose monumental brass exists in the village church of East Horsley, in Com. Surrey; and Ralph Booth, Archdeacon of York, 1478, have all monuments in the church of Sawley, in Com. Derby. The connection of Sawley Church with the see of Lichfield, might account for the monument therein to the Lichfield Bishop; but the monuments to the rest seem to indicate these Booths to have been of Derbyshire origin. Can any of your correspondents give any information as to the family, and particularly as to the cause of a demi St. Catherine being assigned to it for a crest?

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An American Subscriber to Halliwell's Gigantic Shakespeare (New York, 22nd August) suggests that the number of copies printed should be 250, instead of 150, and that he should call for a year's subscription in advance.

One copy instead of two of G. W.'s Price Current shall in future be sent. For the desired figures G. W. will place the letters free, which, he hopes, will give no offence.

C. E. would feel much obliged for any communication respecting Mr. Canning's poetry.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Allen, Joseph W. Landscape Painter, Lower Mall, Hammersmith. 26th August. Aged 49. Leaving a widow and eight children.

Arnold, Samuel James. Dramatist. Walton on Thames. 16th August. Aged 78.

Chapman, John Kemble. Proprietor and Manager *Sunday Times*. 2nd September.

Duke, Rev. Edward. Antiquary. Lake House, near Amesbury. 28th August. Aged 73.

Grainger, Thomas (C.E.) President of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, Stockton-on-Tees. *By railway accident.* 25th July. Aged 57.

Macgillivray, W. (Dr.) Professor of Natural History, Marischal College, Aberdeen. Science and Biography. Aberdeen, 5th September.

Mayo, Herbert (M.D.) Medical Writer. Formerly Senior Surgeon, Middlesex Hospital; and Professor of Physiology, King's College. Bad-Weilbach, near Mayence on the Rhine. 15th August.

Murray, Edward (Rev.) Theology and Science. 1st July. Aged 54.

Parry, John (Rev.) Theology. Bayswater. 5th August. Aged 49.

Porter, George Richardson, (Secretary Board of Trade.) Political Economist. Tunbridge Wells. 3rd September.

Pugin (A. W.) Architect and Architectural Writer. St. Augustine's, Ramsgate. September. Aged 40.

Smith, John. Architect. Aberdeen. August. Aged 72.

Waechter (Professor) M. E. de. Painter. Conservator of the Royal Cabinet of Engravings. Stutgard. Aged 90.

Wellington, Duke of, (F.M. Arthur Wellesley), K.G., Commander-in-Chief. Walmer Castle, Kent. 14th September. Aged 84. Dispatches during his various Campaigns in India, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, the Low Countries, and France, from 1799 to 1818. "For his character as a Statesman," said Lord Brougham, "let every one read his wonderful *Dispatches*, which found a fame far loftier even than the triumphs of the warrior."

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XXII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [OCTOBER, 1852.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

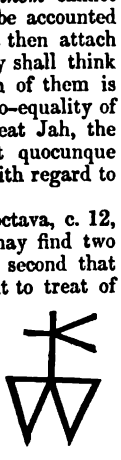
G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his "Current Notes," which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement therefore is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

THE COINS OF DIONYSIUS AND AGATHOCLES.

Vicarage, Southwick, near Oundle.

SIR,—My first paper on the three legs in the Arms of the Isle of Man, (which appeared in Current Notes, March 1852, p. 18,) was written when I had seen only those contained in Gesenius, and those on Manx coins. My second on the same subject (C. N. September, p. 79,) seemed still more fully to prove that the three legs referred to the Magi; but, as the present copies bear a date anterior to the birth of our Saviour, it is evident that the three legs depicted on each of *them* cannot relate to the Magi; these must therefore be accounted for hieroglyphically, and your readers must then attach such a meaning to the former two as they shall think most proper; should they think that each of them is equivalent to a confession of faith in the co-equality of the Essence, Power, and Spirit of the great Jah, the motto on the Manks coin, viz.: "stabit quocunque jeceris," will be applicable. My opinion with regard to the former two is not altered.

In Spanheim's Numismata, dissertatio octava, c. 12, "De Siciliæ Regibus in nummis," you may find two coins; the first that of Dionysius, and the second that of Agathocles. I think it will be sufficient to treat of these two, in order to explain a brass coin in the possession of Mr. Fargher of Douglas, Isle of Man; and its copy in the Atlas Numismatique, Paris, 1829. The compound hieroglyph (excepting the three legs) necessary for a full explanation, is as follows:



The goddess (Victoria) on the coin of Dionysius is supposed to be placing a wreath of laurel on his head, and under her right arm are the three legs, above the compound hieroglyph resembling a weathercock, on two inverted pyramids. The same goddess on the coin of Agathocles has in her right hand the T, the emblem of perfection, Deity, &c. and with her left hand she is placing the *Delta*, the hieroglyph of *union*, (primarily the symbol of the Trinunity) on the top of his armour, supported by a stand or *horse*. Let us now proceed to explain the hieroglyphs on the two coins.

The legs cannot, I think, be accounted for *here*, but by supposing each to be the Hermesian hieroglyph (the leg) القوي *alkawi*, the All-Powerful (God); consequently, the three legs joined will denote the three All-Powerfuls, viz.: the Essence, the Power or Word, and the Spirit.

The hieroglyph under the legs is compounded of the Hermesian hieroglyph equivalent to the Hebrew ש *shin*, denoting Trinunity; and the two inverted pyramids represent two Samaritan *oins* joined, giving us the same idea as the Saviour afterwards gives of himself in Rev. i. 11., viz., that he is the *o o* or *ω O mega*. O is the hieroglyph for *man*; passing through a few gradations from the Hebrew ע *oin*, and Chinese *jin*, a man.

The *Delta* is a Chinese and Egyptian hieroglyph, signifying *union*. The T I have more than once explained.

We are now fully prepared to illustrate the coin of Mr. Fargher. On his coin are the three legs, the T, and the word AI; and by comparing it with that in the Atlas Numismatique, we may venture to propose the meaning of the words ΑΓΑΘΟΚΛΗ ΚΟΙΝΗ, Agathokle koine.

Now, from a collation of these different coins we are naturally led to infer that the word AI must have a similar meaning to that of the compound hieroglyphs already explained; the AI will therefore be read, more Hebræo, from right to left, and we shall have IA or YA pronounced like the Hebrew name of the great Spirit, יה *Ya* for Yah, Psalm lxviii. 4.

The triangle or Delta, and *Agathokle koine*, must therefore denote the *union* of the Sicilian and African dominions under the rule of Agathocles. That which in Mr. Fargher's coin appears like a left arm, is part of a robe behind the armour or image of Agathocles.

I am, sir, yours very truly,

Mr. Willis. T. R. BROWN.

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Halliwell's Shakespeare.

Avenue Lodge, Brixton Hill,
8th Oct. 1852.

Sir,—Your Correspondent C. R. K. (Current Notes for August, No. XX. p. 71) is informed that the rare tract which cost me upwards of £60, is the unique novel of Pericles, founded on the play as it was acted at the Globe Theatre, and that, in future, I must hold myself excused from replying to anonymous querists on any subject connected with the folio edition of Shakespeare.

In reference to a paragraph in your last number, p. 80, respecting the limitation of copies to 150, perhaps you will kindly allow me to say, that, for reasons I consider quite unanswerable, that limit cannot possibly be extended. On that point "I am freely dissolved and dissolutely," preferring, if necessary, to increase the price of the later copies. The expenses will be heavy, and it will be quite as much as I shall be able to do, even with the greatest care, to "make both ends meet;" but I certainly will not increase the impression under any circumstances.

Your humble servant,
Mr. Willis. J. O. Halliwell.

Symbol of the Early Christians.

Bridport, 22nd September, 1852.

Sir,—Accidentally, I have only just seen your August number [XX.] In page 68 your correspondent has somewhat varied the generally received explanation of a fish's representation being adopted by the early Christians as their symbol, which must be too familiar to the majority of your readers to justify insertion in your Notes without an apology. The word ΙΧΘΥΣ, a fish, being formed by putting together the first letters of the following words, Ιησυς Χριστος Θεο Υιος Σωτης, Jesus Christ God's Son the Saviour, is the well known explanation.

Your obliged subscriber,
Mr. Willis.

French Revolutionary Dates.

Woolwich, 28th Sept. 1852.

Sir,—For the information of your Correspondent "Q in a Corner" (Current Notes for this month, p. 78), I send you the inclosed, and remain your humble servant, J. R.

Mr. Willis.

The Revolutionary French æra commenced from the foundation of the Republic, viz. 22nd September 1792. The year was divided into twelve equal months of thirty days each, to which were added five days that did not belong to any month to complete the number of 365; and each month was divided into three decades of ten days, distinguished as the first, second and third, the days of which were called from the Latin

1. Vrimidi.	4. Quartidi.	7. Septidi.
2. Duodi.	5. Quintidi.	8. Octodi.
3. Tridi.	6. Sextidi.	9. Nonodi;

And 10 Decadi, which was to be the day of rest.

The months were

		Autumn.	
Vindémaire,	or Vintage Month,	from	Sep. 22 to Oct. 21.
Brumaire	,, Fog Month	,,	Oct. 22 to Nov. 20.
Frimaire	,, Sleet Month	,,	Nov. 21 to Dec. 20.
		Winter.	
Nivôse	,, Snow Month	,,	Dec. 21 to Jan. 19.
Pluviose	,, Rain Month	,,	Jan. 20 to Feb. 18.
Ventose	,, Wind Month	,,	Feb. 19 to Mar. 20.
		Spring.	
Germinal	,, Sprout Month	,,	Mar. 21 to April 19.
Floreal	,, Flower Month	,,	April 20 to May 19.
Priareal	,, Pasture Month	,,	May 20 to June 18.
		Summer.	
Messidor	,, Harvest Month	,,	June 19 to July 18.
Fervidor	,, Hot Month	,,	July 19 to Aug. 17.
Fructidor	,, Fruit Month	,,	Aug. 18 to Sep. 16.

The five Feasts were as follows, and dedicated to

Les Vertus,	The Virtues,	September 17.
Le Genie,	Genius,	,, 18.
Le Travail,	Labour,	,, 19.
L'Opinion,	Opinion,	,, 20.
Les Recompenses,	Rewards,	,, 21.

The intercalary day of every fourth year was called *La Sans Culotide*, on which there was to be a renovation of the National Oath, "To live free or die."

***The above communication renders it unnecessary for* G. W. *to print more than the following extracts from those made to him by* H. (*Kensington*) *on the same day.* J. W. C. *and* W. K. 1st Oct)**

"The French Revolutionary Kalendar was discontinued in 1805."

September 28, 1852.

Sir,—I have much pleasure in supplying your correspondent "Q." with the information he is seeking.

Of course many medals exist which are dated in accordance with the Revolutionary Kalendar. I possess several, but I may notice one in particular, because it is a very interesting one: Nap. on his favourite steed crossing the St. Bernard—date "Le 25 Floréal, An. viii."

There are many Assignats dated between 1792 and 1805 still in existence, although they will not realize a good fortune to their possessors. I have only five (two autumn, three winter); I should like to possess the other eight very much, and would be glad either to purchase them, or give a goodly number in exchange, having a little roll of these almost worthless pieces of paper. I give you a minute of those which constitute my little series: Vendémiaire, Brumaire, Nivôse, Pluviôse, and Ventôse.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Mr. Willis. H.

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English Version of French Republican Dates.

The English version of these Republican names was thus proposed by a wag of the day:—

Snowy.	Showery.	Breezy.
Blowy.	Lowery.	Sneezy.
Flowy.	Flowery.	Wheezy.
Glowy.	Bowery.	Freezy.

French Assignats.

Mr. Willis,—If you fall in with any assignats: dated

1. Germinal.
2. Floréal.
3. Prairial.
4. Messidor.
5. Fervidor, or Thermidor.
6. Fructidor.
7. Sanculottides, and (or)
8. Frimaire; be pleased to let me know, and No. 7 in particular.

If your correspondent "Q." is going to press, it may be well for him, perhaps, to check my statement, but I believe I am correct. I have copied from the manuscript of my catalogue—coins and medals.*

Fossil Human Bones?

September 15, 1852.

Sir,—Could you or any of your correspondents inform me if there is any published account of the fossil human and other bones found in the Island of Portland, of which mention is made in your Current Notes for August [No. XX. p. 66]?

Your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. T. D. A.

Nelson's Funeral.

Sept. 27th, 1852.

Sir,—The accompanying gathered and reduced from the newspapers, at the period of the arrival to these shores of Nelson's remains as well as of his Funeral, are much at your service; if you think them worthy of insertion at this time, when attention is so much directed to public funerals.

I remain, sir,

Obediently yours,

Mr. Willis. A. T. K.

The Victory, with the remains of the ever-to-be-lamented Nelson, arrived off Sheerness, Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 1805. The body was placed the following morning on board the Chatham Yacht, proceeding on her way to Greenwich. The coffin, covered with an ensign, was placed on deck. Tuesday she arrived at Greenwich, the body still being in the coffin made of the wreck of L'Orient, was then enveloped in the colours of the Victory, bound round by a piece of rope and carried by sailors, part of the crew of the Victory, to the Painted Hall, where preparations were made for the lying in state; the days appointed for which were, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, Jan. 5, 6 and 7, 1806; and to which all due effect was given.

Wednesday, Jan. 8, the first day's procession by water took place, and the remains were removed from Greenwich to Whitehall, and from thence to the Admiralty, with all possible pomp and solemnity. This procession of barges, etc. was nearly a mile long, minute guns being fired during its progress; the banner of emblems was borne by Captain Hardy, Lord Nelson's Captain. The body was deposited that night in the Captain's room at the Admiralty, and attended by the Rev. John Scott.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 1806, the procession from the Admiralty to St. Paul's moved forward about eleven o'clock in the morning—the first part consisting of cavalry regiments, regimental bands with muffled drums, Greenwich pensioners, seamen from the Victory, about 200 mourning coaches, 400 carriages of public officers, nobility, etc. including those of the royal family (the Prince of Wales, Duke of Clarence, etc. taking part in the procession), the body upon a funeral car drawn by six led horses. At Temple Bar the City Officers took their places in the procession. Upon arrival at the Cathedral, they entered by the West Gate and the Great West Door, ranging themselves according to their rank. The seats were as follows: under the dome; in each archway was the front of the piers and in the gallery over the choir. The form of the seats under the dome took the shape of the dome, namely, a circular appearance and calculated to hold 3056 persons. An iron railing was also placed from the dome to the Great Western Door, within which persons were allowed to stand. The body was placed on a bier, erected on a raised platform opposite the Eagle Desk; at the conclusion of the service in the Choir, a procession was formed from thence to the grave, with banners, etc.: the interment being over, Garter proclaimed the Style, and the Comptroller, Treasurer and Steward of the deceased, breaking their staves gave the pieces to Garter, who threw them into the grave. The procession, arranged by the Officers of Arms, then returned.

For a few days after the public were admitted upon a shilling fee, and permitted to enter the enclosed spot directly over the body, looking down a distance of about ten feet, and even gratified with a sight of the coffin placed upon a sort of table covered with a black cloth.

Talavera.

Mr. Willis,—I have been told that a copy of Mr. Wilson Croker's poem of Talavera was printed in folio by Mr. Murray, the eminent publisher, and presented by him to the Duke of Wellington.

Have you ever seen or heard of a folio copy, as I understand this literary curiosity does not exist in his Grace's library?

J. M.

* *It agrees perfectly with that printed on the authority of* J. R. (*Woolwich*), *except as to the mode of spelling one or two words.* G. W.

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Note from the Duke of Wellington.

London, October 4th, 1852.

Sir,—The following characteristic note of the late Duke of Wellington, which came into my possession a few years since, possibly may be considered worthy of insertion in your interesting pages.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Willis. A.

Walmer Castle, Oct. 31, 1839.

The Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mr. Hale. The Duke has thousands of friends and acquaintances.

He has agents, stewards, bailiffs, and other servants in charge of his house, gardens, and place at Strathfieldsaye.

These persons are perfectly aware that any respectable person desirous of seeing the house and place is to be shewn it, if it should be convenient that it should be seen.

The Duke's business and duties elsewhere keep him at a distance from Strathfieldsaye during seven or eight months in the year.

It is impossible for him to give any more positive directions applicable to all who may desire to see his house and place, and it cannot be required from the Duke that he should sit down and write an order that each and every traveller through Hampshire should visit his house, as is required by Mr. Hale, and this whether the Duke has the honour of being acquainted with him or not.

The Duke really thinks that Mr. Hale will not be refused the gratification of seeing Strathfieldsaye when he wishes.

If he should, the Duke hopes that he will believe that it is because it would be inconvenient to allow the place to be shewn on the day that he will have fixed upon.

John Hale, Esq.

Wellington's Tree at Pains Hill.

September 27th, 1852.

In the copy of Brayley and Britton's Surrey, which very valuable and interesting work I recently procured from you, I have been particularly struck and pleased with the lines by Lord Carhampton upon a young Oak growing on an island at Pains Hill, which was planted in 1817, in "Honour to the Duke of Wellington." It is stated to be now upwards of thirty feet high, with branches extending over a space measuring seventy feet in circumference.

"Emblem of Britain's glory! grow thou here,
Deep in the earth; high in the atmosphere;
Sacred to Wellington's great name,
And record of his well-earn'd fame.
When many hundred years are past
And thou must die, his fame shall last.
Yes! thou sturdy, long-liv'd tree,
His glorious deeds shall outlive thee.
Shakespear prophetically tells us when
His fame must perish—but not till then."

There is a rugged earnestness about these verses that sounds to my ear far more sternly melodious than the dulcet stop of Moore could have produced.

N. P.

The last Official Letter signed by the Duke of Wellington is said to have been that addressed to Major-General Sir Charles O'Donnell, acquainting him that his name was placed on the £1. 5*s* list.

The Duke of Wellington surprised.

While sitting for his portrait to Mr. Pickersgill, that artist in order the better to catch the Duke's expression, put the question, "Pray is it true that your Grace was surprised at Waterloo?" The Duke's countenance remained unmoved, but with an arch look he replied, "No, Sir. I never was surprised till now."

R. A.

The Duke of Wellington's Waterloo Sword.

Upon application being made to the Duke for his sword to be deposited in the Waterloo room of the United Service Institution, his Grace quaintly replied, that he could not part with it during his life or so long as the Crown may require its service, but he had no objection after his death to its being placed there.

S. E.

The Battle of Waterloo.

The Executors of Mr. Richard Jones (Gentleman Jones), of whom some recollections have appeared in Current Notes, Nos. IX. X. and XI. (1851), have recently presented to the United Service Institution the following letter, written on the field of battle by a young cavalry officer, and bearing the London Post Office stamp of "12 o'clock, Jy. 1815, Nn."

Camp near Nivelles, 19th.

Dear Jones,—The fight is over, I am safe. The action was horrid, the cannonade tremendous, and the slaughter immense. Nap. beaten with loss of 40,000, all his baggage and artillery—3 days fighting—half the cavalry on our side destroyed, and the infantry and artillery suffered immense. Love to all.

Yours always,
J. C. C.

Author of a Narrative of Political and Military Transactions of British India.

In reply to Δ's letter of 27th August, (Current Notes for September, No. XXI. p. 75) G. W. has received the following communication.

8, Leadenhall Street,
Sept. 28th, 1852.

My dear Sir,—The Author of a "Narrative of Political and Military Transactions in India" is "Henry Toby Prinsep," at present a Director of the East India Company, and residing at Little Holland House, Kensington.

The facsimile in this month's Circular is his.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Willis. J. Madden.

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Admiralty Autographs.

Sir,—I have been somewhat puzzled and amused at the facsimiles given in the last number of your Current Notes (p. 75) and I now send you a signature cut from an official document which I think almost rivals them in obscurity.

However, I can inform you that it is the signature of an eminent literary, scientific, and official character, the late Sir John Barrow, Bart., who I need scarcely inform you, was for many years Second Secretary to the Admiralty, the founder and President of the Geographical Society, and a distinguished Quarterly Reviewer.

What the unfortunate Admiralty Clerks, the Secretaries of Scientific Societies, and printers must have suffered from this style of illegible writing may be conceived, and what extraordinary blunders such recklessness in penmanship may lead to, I leave you to conjecture.

I once heard the poet Rogers observe that the man who wrote his name obscurely was guilty of a piece of impertinence towards the party addressed by him, and Sir John Barrow, I believe, received more than one reproof respecting his writing. It is said that a distinguished Admiral, the late Sir Edward Codrington, who wrote a clear, beautiful, and distinct hand, cut off a similar signature to that which I inclose from a letter addressed to him, pasted it on the envelope of his reply, and directed it to the Admiralty. In another case the official Baronet was addressed as J. W. Bunn, Esq.

As example, especially official example, where precedent is so much considered since the days of Sir John Barrow, it would appear that the Secretaries and Clerks of the Admiralty have been selected from the most illegible writers that could be discovered. Amongst my collection of Literary Autographs I possess a few specimens which, upon finding that this communication receives favour in your sight, I will forward to you to engrave, as enigmas for the amusement of your readers.

Mr. Willis. An Autograph Collector.

Franks and Franking.

September 30, 1852.

Sir,—I wish it were in my power to give a more full reply to "Franks and Franking" [Current Notes for this month, p. 74], than to refer to a most useful little work, "The Tablet of Memory," wherein I perceive "Franking letters first claimed 1660, commenced 1734 (which must be an error), restrained 1764, 1775, 1793, and 1834." The following lines of Miss Sheridan at the termination of the privilege, Jan. 10, 1840, may, perhaps, be interesting:—

"Best thanks to those privileged friends I'd express'
Who have helped me, so oft, with 'a little address,'
Who placed under cover each dull imperfection,
And gave to my writings 'a proper direction.'
In exchanging our notes foreign credit we'll lose,
Since a good English 'Frank' is not now worth two sous!
Our epistles less 'free' we pen-gossips feel blankly,
We must keep our thoughts closer, since none may write frankly."

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Willis. A Collector, but not of Franks.

Uncle Tom's Cabin.

(*From the Boston Transcript of 17th September.*)

"A Voice from a Sufferer.—Mr. Editor: I am a victim of the popular excitement about Uncle Tom's Cabin. Mrs. Tyke read it in chapters in the *New Era* long ago, and she, as well as the little Tykes, has been reading it in two volumes ever since. Never was mortal so hunted down by a book before. I have no peace—morning, noon, or night. Indian cake at breakfast suggests sympathetic allusions to the thousands of poor Uncle Toms at the South, who must eat hoe-cake or die; dinner is enlivened by conversations upon the incidents of the work; and I am pestered every evening after tea by my eldest daughter's imploring me to hear 'the last sweet song about little Eva.' The young ladies are working fancy sketches of Uncle Tom's physiognomy in black worsted; the baby has a woolly headed doll whom she tries to call Topsy; and my house is lumbered up with fresh editions of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and 'Aunt Phillis's Cabin,' and 'Southern Life as It Is,' and 'Southern Life as It Is'nt,' and goodness knows what else besides. Our youngest has fortunately been christened—but Mrs. Tyke gives dark and mysterious hints about naming somebody else Eva some of these days, if circumstances permit. I am almost driven to say that I hope circumstances never will permit. I haven't read the book. I won't read it. People say it is a remarkable work. I do not doubt it. If it wasn't, it never would set all creation so agog. Young ladies are astounded that I am ignorant of its contents, and throw up their hands, exclaiming, '*Haven't* read Uncle Tom's Cabin?' whereupon a chorus of astonished bystanders chime in, 'Well, I *am* surprised!' Will not somebody write something or do something to change this wearisome subject? I think of it all day, and dream of it all night. It will be the death of me. But as I say to Mrs. Tyke every morning, as sure as my name is John Tyke, I will *not* read the book. No! not even if people point at me in the streets as—

The Man who has not read 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.'"

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West Horseley Church. Surrey.

In compliance with the order from H. T. W., *Bengal* (*see* G. W.'s *Current Notes for July last, p.* 61), *the Church of his family burial-place is here represented, to the exclusion of much interesting matter, for which* G. W. *has to apologize to his Correspondents.*

Rhyming Tokens.

Fulham, Sept. 1852.

Sir,—Your Correspondents, H. J. R. (*August Current Notes*) and B. N. (*Sep.* C. N.) on the subject of "Rhyming Tokens," appear to differ as to the meaning of the following:

Strike light,
Weigh right.

Grain is sold by strike measure, which means full level and no more; now this is managed by a straight rule or strike sweeping off all that is piled above the edge of the measure. Cheats, with a heavy hand, could so bend down the strike in the middle, as to sweep off a good deal below the level — therefore, strike light, means strike with a light hand, that the measure may be left full and level.

Mr. Willis. E.

Garrick's Fribbleriad.

As a Collector of Curiosities connected with the Drama, I have of course a copy of Garrick's Fribbleriad.

I wish to know, through the medium of Current Notes, whether any other collector can and will oblige me with information as to the characters introduced. After the hero, Fitzpatrick, to whom Tom Davies has devoted one gossiping chapter in his Life of Garrick, there seems to be no clue to the speakers in the Fribble Conclave; nor am I sure that any real persons were intended, but the spirit of the day would be sure to introduce real, rather than fictitious characters, so that one would be glad to hear what well-read collectors have to say about Lord Trip, Sir Cock-a-doodle, Phil Whiffle, Sir Diddler Patty-pan, and the Rev. *Mister* Marjoram.

I am, sir, your subscriber and constant reader,

Mr. Willis. Feltham.

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American Go-a-Headism.

September 20th.

Sir,—Allow me to suggest to your New York Correspondent [Current Notes for August, No. XX. p. 69,] that the language he has addressed towards Mr. Dickens is neither civil nor polite, and is quite uncalled for, and his insinuation respecting Lord Mahon unjustifiable. Pray, in what relation does Lord Mahon stand to Mr. Dickens that they should thus be put side by side like two criminals? Do they write on the same subjects? and is there any similarity in their style? I think not. Further, his logic is bad—we are said to patronize both Lord Mahon and Mr. Dickens, and that the English patronize a snobbish taste and style. Yet he asserts his lordship to be a gentleman, Mr. Dickens a snob. Now it is quite clear that a gentleman and a snob are incompatible. Yet Lord Mahon is a gentleman, and writes in a snobbish style. Mr. Dickens also writes in a snobbish style, but is not a gentleman. So it plainly appears from your correspondent that, because Lord Mahon is a nobleman, that therefore he is a gentleman; and because Mr. Dickens is not a nobleman, that therefore he is not a gentleman!

It is a well-known fact that purse-proud people, as the Americans are, who originally were the offscouring of this country, which now they so ungraciously and undutifully assail, always look with supreme contempt on those who are their superiors in education.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. An Englishman.

Beloe's Sexagenarian.

Sir,—I lately purchased from your Catalogue a copy of the first edition of "Beloe's Sexagenarian" with "a Manuscript Key to the Names,"—but I find that this MS. Key only deciphers thirty names in the first volume, and twenty-eight in the second—which bear no proportion to the number left unexplained.

Can you or any of your Correspondents enable me to procure a more complete list of the persons who are described in these volumes? which lose much of their value and interest from the want of knowing precisely to what individuals they refer.

In spite of the obloquy with which the work has been assailed in some quarters, I feel convinced that it is a valuable piece of literary biography, delineating, with little reserve perhaps, but still delineating *truthfully*, the more prominent features of most of the various characters which he had met with in the course of his life. I confess my partiality to this sort of literary gossip, and shall be much obliged by your furnishing me with a more full and complete Index to the Names mentioned in these volumes.

Your obedient servant,

Mr. Willis. Paul Pry.

American Prophecy on the Gold Discoveries.

The effect likely to be produced upon our population by the recent discoveries in California, certainly seems to tend towards a fulfilment of the almanac prophecy of 1798:

> "When the country is ruled by a tailor bold,
> A beggar shall stitch with a thimble of gold."

Ancient Chinese Literature.

A translation from the Chinese, entitled, *The Ceremonial Usages of the Chinese*, is a book forming a category for itself. It is done into decent English by W. Raymond Gingell, and the original being a work of great antiquity, bearing date eleven hundred and twenty years before Christ, it gives us some very curious pictures of Eastern life prior to the siege of Troy and the building of the Pyramids, that is, supposing the old chronologies of the world could be reconciled or trusted!

Was Shakspere Lame?

Schlegel says that sufficient use has not been made of Shakspere's Sonnets, as important materials for his biography. Let us see what that might lead to. In Sonnet xxxviii. he writes:

> "As a decrepit father takes delight
> To see his active child do deeds of youth,
> So I, *made lame* by fortune's dearest spite,
> Take all my comfort of thy worth and truth."

And again, in Sonnet lxxxix.

> "Say that thou didst forsake me for some fault,
> And I will comment upon that offence;
> Speak of my *lameness*, and I straight will halt
> Against thy reasons making no defence."

Was Shakspere lame? "A question to be asked;" and there is nothing in the inquiry repugnant to poetic justice, for he has made Julius Cæsar deaf in his left ear. Where did he get his authority?

Dr. Darwin's Prophecy on Steam.

The following curious prophecy is from Dr. Darwin's "Botanic Garden," published in 1789, but written, it is well known, at least twenty years before the date of its publication:

> "Soon shall thy arm, unconquer'd Steam, afar
> Drag the slow barge, or drive the rapid car;
> Or on wide waving wings expanded bear
> The flying chariot through the fields of air.
> Fair crews triumphant leaning from above
> Shall wave their fluttering 'kerchiefs as they move;
> Or warrior bands alarm the gaping crowd,
> And armies shrink beneath the shadowy cloud:
> So mighty Hercules o'er many a clime
> Waved his huge mace in virtue's cause sublime;
> Unmeasured strength with early art combined,
> Awed, served, protected, and amazed mankind."

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Sportsmen's Terms of the Middle Ages.

The sporting vocabulary of the middle ages furnishes many terms curiously happy in description: a route of wolves; a pace of asses; a barren of mules; a tribe of goats; a skulk of foxes; a singular of boars; a sownder of wild swine; a harras of horses; a rag of colts; a richess of martens; a husk, or a down of hares; a clowder of cats; a shrewdness of apes; and a labor of moles. A hart was said to be harbored, a buck lodged, a roe-buck bedded, a hare formed, a rabbit set, &c. We have also a litter of whelps, and a cowardice of curs.

The Alchymists.

Birmingham.

Sir,—Your correspondent "A Customer and an Alchymist" [Current Notes for July, No. XIX. p. 64] is informed that a list of books on Alchymy will be found in the *Bibliotheca Chymica* of P. Borellus, 12mo.; and that a "*Catalogue of Chymicall Books*" was published in 1675 by William Cooper, Bookseller, at the Pelican in Little Britain, London, 12mo. This latter is in three parts; the first had been published separately, and the two latter added, upon the work being appended to the "Philosophical Epitaph of W. C., Esq." London, 12mo. 1673. It is under this title that your correspondent must search for the Catalogue which will be found to contain a most curious and complete list of Chemical—or what is the same Alchemical—works published in Europe up to that time.

Mr. Willis. William Bates.

Alderman Dowden's Botany of the Bohereens.

Northampton, Sept. 28, 1852.

Apropos of Alderman Dowden and his "Botany of the Bohereens," (Current Notes, August, p. 70, and Sept. p. 79) allow me to say that Bohereens, about which T. H. enquires, means green lanes, and not any particular district. "Botany of the Bohereens" means the Botany of the Green Lanes therefore. Mrs. Crawford has used the word in one of her popular songs,

"Oh, Dermot Asthore! how his fond heart would flutter
When I met thee by night in the shady boreen."

G. J. De W.

Campbell's Adelgitha.

It is not very clear what is the nature of the clue which A. K. (Current Notes for September, p. 78) seeks respecting Campbell's Adelgitha. The Poem is to be found in every edition of his collected works. W.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. S. P. (30th Sept.) thanked; but the letter ascribed to Richelieu has been so often printed in translation, with similar imitations of the style in English of this well known to be fictitious document, that it must be familiar to most of the readers of G. W.'s Current Notes.

It is neither more nor less than a common Jesuitical school boy exercise, many specimens of which have been forwarded to G. W.

Album Poetry.—E. thanked. Specimens of the poetry of Saml. Rogers, May 13, 1839, although copied from his Autograph, were in print, or in ladies' albums, certainly thirty years before that date. Roscoe's lines are perfectly familiar to the ear. So are those signed "J. Montgomery," and dated from "the Mount near Sheffield," Jan. 25, 1840. Bernard Barton's have probably been printed, but they are not remembered, and therefore are here printed or reprinted.

"My signature and date when penn'd
Thou'rt welcome to, my unknown friend,
They cost nor time, nor trouble;
Though much, I think, my humble name,
And minimum of minstrel fame,
Are both alike,—a bubble."

Bernard Barton.

Woodbridge, Suffolk, Oct. 16, 1848.

"A Collector of Coins," Northampton, Oct. 9, will appear if he forwards 10s for engraving the Jetton; the inscription on which he reads inaccurately.

C. M. J. versus the Senior Church Warden, 20th Sept. —M. A. S. (Falstaff's Comic Annual), 1st Oct.—A. F. K. (Francis Hanksbee) 2nd October—F. W. E. (Nursery Rhymes)—L. (The Fate of Genius, King's Bench Walk, Temple)—R. (Theodore Hook)—F. W. Fairholt, 11 Montpelier Square, Brompton (Hone's History of Parody)—B. N. (Bermondsey Tokens), and T. F. D. C. (Joseph Ashbury and Oxberry's Dramatic Chronology) thanked, and in type, but must stand over. Albert Smith and his "Soft Soap" *on albums* received too late as a puff to do him any good. Will look again at it.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Barnes, John. (Director of the Construction of Steam Engines and Vessels for the Service of the Messageries Nationales of France). La Clotat, near Marseilles. 24th September. Aged 54.

Bradfield, Henry Joseph. Poet. *Suicide*. St. Alban's Hotel, Haymarket. 11th October. Aged 45.

Colby, Thomas (Major-General). Ordnance Survey. R. E. Liverpool. 2nd October.

Finden, William. Engraver. Upper Cheyne-row, Chelsea. 20th September. Aged 66.

Fisher, William (Rear Admiral). Novelist. 38, Blandford Square. 30th September. Aged 72.

Litta, Pompeo (Count). Italian Genealogist and Antiquary. 17th August.

Thomson, Thomas. Edinburgh Reviewer. Edinburgh. 2nd October.

Townsend, Thomas Stuart, D.D. (Lord Bishop of Meath). Theology and Education. Malaga. 16th September. Aged 51.

Welsford, Henry. Philologist. London Street, Fitzroy Square. October 4.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XXIII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [NOVEMBER, 1852.

WAS SHAKSPERE LAME?

THIS question, first suggested, I believe, by Capell, and now revived by your Correspondent (Current Notes, p. 8), can only have arisen, as it seems to me, from an inconsiderate perusal of the passages which have led to the supposition, and a disregard of the immediate context. Nevertheless, a few words upon the subject may not be thought wholly supererogatory, as the belief has, somehow, obtained the sanction of high authority—that of Sir Walter Scott, for instance, who seems to have introduced Shakspere into his novel of "Kenilworth" for no other purpose than to make a gratuitous allusion to his deformity, "He is a stout man at quarter-staff, and single falchion," says the novelist, "though, as I am told, a *halting fellow*."

In Sonnet XXXVII. I must admit, that there appears to be some ambiguity of meaning:—

> "As a decrepit father takes delight
> To see his active child do deeds of youth;
> So I, *made lame* by Fortune's dearest (direst?) spite,
> Take all my comfort of thy worth and truth:"—

but it will surely be evident, that as in the first two lines the illustration is purely *physical*, the senile decrepitude of the father being opposed to the youthful vigour of his offspring; so in the two latter, Shakspere, proceeding in the adulatory vein of the preceding sonnets, has ascribed to himself a merely *moral* or *social* inferiority, to heighten by the contrast the "worth and truth" of his idolized friend. But if this interpretation of the passage be not accepted, and the *literal* meaning be insisted on, I must take refuge in the 9th line of the same sonnet—

> "So then I am *not lame*, poor, nor despised,"

and ask with Malone, "If the words are to be understood literally, we must then suppose that our admired poet was also *poor and despised*, for neither of which suppositions there is the smallest ground."

I now proceed to quote from Sonnet LXXXIX. the other passage in which Shakspere is supposed to assert his lameness; placing before it a few lines from the preceding sonnet, which tend to illustrate what I conceive to be its only true meaning. The italics are my own:—

> "When thou shalt be disposed to set me light,
> And place my merit in the eye of scorn,
> Upon thy side, *against myself*, I'll fight,
> And prove thee virtuous though thou art forsworn.
> * * * * *
> Such is my love, to thee I so belong
> That for thy right *myself will bear all wrong*.
> * * * * *
> Say that thou didst forsake me for some fault,
> And I will comment upon that offence;
> Speak of my lameness and I straight will halt,
> Against thy reason making no defence."

This, amplified into prose, would read, I imagine:—

"Whenever you may be disposed to make me appear as of little worth, and set my qualities in a contemptible light, I, *taking part with thee against myself*, will aid thee in thy object, so that, forsworn as thou art, no suspicion may arise of thy candour and truth.

* * * * *

"So great indeed is my love—so entirely is my existence and its interests absorbed in thine, that I will bear any imputation—however unmerited—rather than make thee appear cruel and unjust, by shewing the falsity of it.

* * * * *

"Thus, ascribe your desertion of me to some fault of mine—whatever that may be I will speak of it as if I were actually guilty; shouldst thou say that I labour under some bodily infirmity—*lameness*, for instance—I would actually assume a limp, lest by my upright gait discredit might be thrown upon thy assertion."

Now if I have taken an erroneous view, and Shakspere was actually lame, his promise to "make no defence" in case of his imperfection being alluded to, becomes simply ridiculous, and he would scarcely make a promise to "halt," and claim merit for so doing, if he could not help it. What, too, can he mean by "bearing all wrong," unless some injustice were done to him in the accusations, of which he immediately after speaks; and "fighting against himself" can only mean in this place, his assenting to injurious imputations. Indeed, except upon the supposition of his moral and physical integrity, the two Sonnets, from which I have quoted, lose all point and force, and become simply absurd.

It may be also asked, how can the fame which it is known Shakspere attained by his performance of the Ghost in Hamlet—his greatest character—be reconciled with the notion of his physical deformity.

Your correspondent will find that Charles Knight, in his "Shakspere, a Biography," has made considerable and ingenious use of the Sonnets; and the matter which they, as well as the Dramatic works, afford, for the elimination of an imaginative biography of the great Bard, has been still further improved in a clever and amusing little volume, entitled "Shakspere's Autobiographical Poems, being his Sonnets clearly developed, with his character drawn chiefly from his works, by Charles Armitage Brown." London, James Bohn, 1838, pp. 306.

Birmingham, Nov. 1852. WILLIAM BATES.

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Phœnician Inscriptions.

I have somewhere read, that Bishop Clayton offered a considerable sum of money for a copy of *all* the inscriptions in the Wady Elmocatteb, in order that an attempt might be made to interpret them: I am, therefore, inclined to think that the learned readers of your excellent "Current Notes" will not object to have a little peep into the general character of these compositions, which have, of late, excited some little curiosity.

I have diligently read, here and there, many of the 187 collected in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature; and beg you to admit three of them among your interesting notes.

No. 16. "The soldiers of the army of the Rephaim, being confounded at the terrible peals of thunder, were put to flight at Murait, in the neighbourhood of Sina, by the spears of the sons of Turk" (the eldest son of Japhet).

No. 14. "I am left at the murmuring sound, at Sina, weak and afflicted with grief."

No. 1. "At Sina, the star of the constellation Virgo shot forth a diffusion of rays in the midst of heaven; the inner circle being of a white" (pearl) "colour, and the outer circle being of a golden colour.

Nathan Hafi, the Grandfather."

The star here described, is given in the same terms in Chinese, Sanscrit, Persian, &c. records. See a picture of it in Kæmpfer's Amœnitates Exoticæ, p. 313.

These writings have, I think, been represented as the handy-work of the Israelites during their passage through the Wady Elmocatteb; but, independent of the idea that the Israelites either *could not*, or would *not* have been allowed to *engrave* figures on a rock; the inscriptions themselves shew that they were the work of those who made a pilgrimage to Sina, or passed through the valley to or from Jerusalem, etc., to which may be added, that the language is *not* Hebrew, but Phœnician. I think I may also venture to affirm that there is no such thing as a catalogue of proper names in the whole valley. According to the specimens in my possession, there are not more than three or four proper names contained in twenty inscriptions.

I am, sir, yours very truly,

T. R. Brown.

October 28th, 1852.

Nursery Rhymes.

Your fair Correspondent, Amelia L—— (Current Notes for September, p. 76) who seems puzzled about the jingle,—a well known one I may add, of

"Three Fish and three Lions
Set the King at defiance,"

may readily see by the Corporate Seal of Kingston upon Thames its historic reference to that town; and this jingle is traditionally said to have been the manner in which Lilly, the astrologer, communicated to Charles I. that the Corporation of Kingston was actually at the command of the Parliament.

F. W. E.

An Allegory of Mortality.

The following stanzas from "Ritson's Ancient Songs and Ballads," vol. 1, p. 15. He says that it is prefixed, though not connected with a ballad in French, on the death of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, slain at the Battle of Evesham, 4th August, 1265. It presents the same play upon words as in the verses inserted in the "Current Notes," vol. 1, p. 78, entitled "An Allegory of Mortality." The version in the Harleian MSS. mentioned by "T. R." (p. 82), might possibly prove a connection of the two, as parts of one original.

"Erthe toc of erthe erthe wyth woh
Erthe other erthe to the erthe droh
Erthe leyde erthe in erthe ne throh
Tho hevede erthe of erthe erthe ynoh."

Sylv.

John Evelyn, Esq.

In the blank leaf of a copy of the "Sylva" of this great general scholar, in the possession of the philosophical editor of the last edition of that useful work, is the following inscription:

To the memory
Of John Evelyn, Esq.
A man of great learning, of sound judgment,
and of extensive benevolence.
From an early entrance into public life,
to an extreme old age,
He considered himself as living only for the benefit
of Mankind.
Reader,
Do justice to this illustrious character,
And be confident,
That as long as there remains one page of his
voluminous writings,
And as long as Virtue and Science hold their
abode in this Island,
The memory of the illustrious Evelyn
will be held in the highest veneration.

In the Dedication to the English translation of the celebrated Life of Peyresc, by Gassendi, Mr. Evelyn is deservedly styled the English Peyresc; Mr. Evelyn, in the general extent of his knowledge, and in his ardent zeal for the improvement and communication of science and of literature, completely resembling that learned Counsellor of the Parliament of Aix in Provence.

The translation was some time ago presented to a great niece of Mr. Evelyn, a lady of great talents for epistolary writing.

Some races are for talents fam'd,
And parallels display;
England's Peyresc is Evelyn nam'd,
His niece its *Sévigné*.

Arms of the Isle of Man.

"My signet—my signet—Oh! you mean that with the three monstrous legs, which I suppose was devised as the most preposterous device, to represent our most absurd majesty of Man."—*Peveril of the Peak*, vol. ii. p. 73.

Verbum Sapienti.

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Arms of the Isle of Man.

Sir,—With your permission, I will make a few observations on the "Arms of the Isle of Man." There is neither difficulty nor mystery; yet it seems to puzzle the Rev. T. R. Brown very much. The figure in your September number, and also in that of March, is a symbol of the year of three seasons generated by the sun; Capricorn being put in to indicate the month in which the sun begins his upward course, viz. on the 25th of December; it is in fact the same thing as the tripod of Apollo, and will therefore mean the same. However strange it may appear, nearly all nations originally had but three seasons, and the tripod was the symbol. Gebelin gives the best account of it. "Ce trépied auquel présidoit Apollon, n'est pas un trépied ordinaire: c'est l'année à trois saisons, suivant les Orientaux, qui marchoit ainsi à trois pieds: aussi faisoit-on des calendriers à trois jambes, qui partoient d'un même centre et formoient une espèce de roue; sur chaque jambe étoit le détail d'une saison ou de quatre mois de l'année," &c. (Vol. 1, p. 185.) The Chinese also had it: "On assure que le plus ancien simulacre religieux que les Chinois ayent fabriqué, a été un trépied." (Pauw, Recherches, Vol. 2, page 210.) The Egyptians also had three seasons: "On divisait l'année en trois époques principales ou trois saisons." (Dupuis, Origine des Constellations.) The ancient Greeks had only three seasons, Eunomia, Dike, and Eirene (Taylor's Notes on Pausanias). Hesiod, Apollodorus, and Diodorus Siculus only mention three. (Montfaucon.) On this account Minerva was called τριτογένεια, because she changed her nature three times a year, in Spring, Summer, and Winter. All the Northern nations had only three seasons; for Freja is described in the Edda as having sometimes a black, sometimes a green, and sometimes a white dress. Freja corresponds to Minerva, or Isis. Bailly was unable to account for all nations having three seasons, except on the supposition that it originally came from the North. "En descendant à des latitudes moins boréales, vers le 79° où la nuit n'est plus que de 4 mois, on trouveroit peut-être l'origine de ces années singulières, et de la révolution solaire partagée en trois saisons. Dans nos climats l'astronomie n'offre aucun moyen de faire ce partage de l'année, il devient naturel sous le parallèle de 79° où le soleil, invisible pendant 4 mois, s'élévant sur l'horison vers le pole dans un pareil intervalle, et employant le même temps à redescendre, divise l'année en trois saisons." (Bailly, Histoire de l'Astronomie, page 104.) Again, "Mais les années de quatre mois sont plus singulières. Nous n'ignorons pas que les anciens auteurs nous disent, qu'il n'y avoit autrefois que trois saisons à l'année qui par conséquent étoient de quatre mois." (Page 158.) Though all nations had only three seasons once, yet they all had four subsequently. The Chinese appear to have been the first who used four seasons. "L'Empereur (Yao) appella Hi et Ho, et leur dit: remarquez une période de 366 jours; l'intercalation d'une lune et la détermination des quatre saisons servent à la disposition parfaite de l'année." (Le Chou-king, by Gaubil, p. 7.) Yao lived 2357 years B. C. In Egypt, Osiris was killed by Typhon the 17th of the month Paophi; this was formerly the Autumnal Equinox; the reign of Typhon then commences, and continues till the Vernal Equinox, when the death of Osiris is avenged by Horus; and the evil introduced by Typhon is repaired. This is a space of six months, and constituted one season; viz., Winter. Autumn was unknown to the ancients; what we now call Autumn was what they called Winter; and it lasted six months. I believe originally they had only two seasons, the reign of the good and the bad principle, each beginning and ending at the equinoxes. At a later period, the death of Osiris was transferred to the 17th of the month Athyr, and, as I conjecture, to make room for Serapis, the representative of the Sun, at the Autumnal Equinox. Plutarch states that Ptolemy the Saviour, in consequence of a dream introduced the statue of Serapis into Alexandria; this must have been about 300 B. C. Is this the date of the introduction of Autumn in Egypt? A history of Autumn and Serapis would be deeply interesting, if written by a person of erudition; it would be found so interwoven with the doctrines of Christianity as would fill the public mind with astonishment.

With respect to the legend (in March No.), it is easy to explain. The sun at the top of the mountain (viz., Summer Solstice) in descending to the bottom (viz. Winter Solstice) arrives at Capricorn, and of course is changed into a goat, then ascending, and arriving at Aries, he becomes a sheep. Personify the sun, and the legend is beautifully true. This allegory is still used in the New Testament. (Matt. xxv. 32, 33.) To feel the full force of the allusion in Scripture, it is necessary to bear in mind that the goat is in the region of darkness, and the sheep in the region of light.

"Top of the Mountain."
Osiris triumphant on his throne.
Summer Solstice.

Typhon triumphant.
Autumnal equinox.
Death of Osiris.

Vernal equinox
Line of separation of goats and sheep.
Horus triumphant.
Death of Typhon.

Winter Solstice.
Birth of Horus.
"The Plain below."

Diagram illustrating years of two, three, and four seasons; also the legend of Mona, and Matt. xxv. 31, 32, 33.

With respect to the Magi, the star at each leg does not represent them, but the Sun, the generator of each

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leg or season; the man's face also is the sun. The three stars called Magi are the three stars of Orion's belt: their names are Magalat, Galgalat, and Saraim. They have been called Magi and Kings from time immemorial.

Hoping the above will settle the question of the "Arms of the Isle of Man,"

I am, yours respectfully,
F. SNAITH, M.D.

Holbeach, Nov. 11th, 1852.

BERMONDSEY TOKENS.

I HAVE much pleasure in communicating, through you, to your Correspondent, R. T. S. ("Current Notes" for September, No. xxi. p. 76), what information I possess (scanty though it be) about Bermondsey Tokens. I believe only two are known of that locality, struck during the eighteenth century; and both were issued by Thomas Keys, the proprietor of the Spa Gardens. Their devices are

No. 1. Ob. Two keys, and between them, T. K. in monogram.
Legend—"Bermondsey Spa Gardens."
R. A group of musical instruments, and in the centre of them a flaming heart: date "1789."
No. 2. Ob. Inscription across the field; "T. Keys, Bermondsey Spa Gardens, 1796"
R. Similar to that of No. 1.

It will be observed that there is an interval of seven years between the two dates. My impression is, that these pieces were not tokens at all, from their not having the word "Token" or "Halfpenny" upon them, and not being made "payable" anywhere. They were probably used as checks, or tickets of admission; and they are of such extremely coarse workmanship as to favour the idea that they were struck by a common blacksmith.

According to Lysons, the Spa was not discovered until 1770, but Keys was proprietor of the gardens in 1765. In 1778, he obtained a license for music, and gradually introduced a variety of amusements similar to those which prevailed at Vauxhall. Probably they very much resembled those now so popular at the Surrey Zoological Gardens, for Keys, though a self-taught artist, produced a representation of the siege of Gibraltar which covered several acres of ground, and which seems to have been the prototype of Mr. Danson's scenic paintings at the Surrey Zoological Gardens. The Spa, which was chalybeate, never had much repute, and does not appear to have been resorted to for purposes of health.

There are several small Bermondsey tokens of the seventeenth century,* but they are of little interest, and the question of R. T. S. seems only to apply to those of Keys's time.

B. N.

* See "Akerman's Tradesmen's Tokens, current in London between 1648 and 1672.

CURIOSITIES OF EARLY PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

The Punch of the Commonwealth.

IT is not a little remarkable that we should be indebted to the psalm-singing days of the Commonwealth for the first English periodical devoted to fun and satire. On the 8th of April, 1652, under the very nose of his Highness the Protector, was published the first number of

"Mercurius Democritus, or a true and Perfect Nocturnall, communicating many strange Wonders, out of the World in the Moon, the Antipodes, Muggy-land, Tenebris, Fary-land, Green-land, and other adjacent countries. Published for the Right Understanding of all the Mad-merry People of Great Bedlam."

The size is the usual small 4to. of the journals of the period, and its matter consists of sarcastic comments upon passing events, together with a plentiful sprinkling of fictitious intelligence, narrated with a deal of broad humour, but the wit, if wit it can be called, is of so gross a nature, that I fear your lively contemporary would scarcely feel complimented by the assimilation conveyed in the heading. Here and there, however, I can pick out a paragraph which will give the readers of *Current Notes* an idea of the literary ware which amused their ancestors of the Commonwealth.

Blake and Van Tromp are blazing away in the Channel, and the hits at the Dutch are consequently numerous, and appear to "take."

"There is a fresh-water sea-man lately come sick home from the navy, saith that the Dutch Fleet lies so heavy on many of the seamen's stomachs since the last engagement, that their breaths smell of nothing ever since but pickled herrings."

And again a short time after—

"The Dutch have lately devised a stratagem to keep their harbours from freezing, by placing in every haven a fire ship that's so hot that it thawes the ice faster than it freezeth."

Lilly also is fair game.

"Will. Lilly hath put in Bayle, and hath his liberty on condition that he will make the aspect of Mars and Saturn to be more milde, and for his penance to take the Carter's Whip and jerk the Beares three times round about the pole, and after this to be put again into his primer and to learn to forsake the devil and all his works."

The unfortunate star-gazer appears to have excited the wrath of Mercurius in no small degree—scarce a number in which he is not roughly handled.

Here is another—

"Mr. Lilly hath been missing certain days; some think he hath made away himself; others affirm that he is metamorphosed into an owle, that sings by daylight and writes all night in a hollow tree; others say he was overtook by an old lame shepherd in the Zodiac, mounted on the Dragon tail," etc.

The polemical spirit of the times is lashed with a free hand, but the extreme coarseness of the satire renders it unfit for your columns. In one number it is recorded that

"To-morrow is a great dispute at the Bare-garden be-

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tween a Presbyterian Chamber-maid, who hath challenged an Independent Fish-woman, to dispute with her about the point of Predestination."

A discussion which probably came off at a time mentioned further on, "when 3 tydes flow'd in the New River, and a quire of Mermaids heard to sing wonderfully sweetly by Jack Adams of Clerkenwell."

The lover of folk-lore and popular customs will meet with much interesting matter in these columns, where the manners of the period are more faithfully and vividly depicted than in any other with which I am acquainted, always excepting the daguerreotypes of "the curious Mr. Pepys." From the following it would appear that the rites of St. Valentine were not formerly confined to pen and paper.

"A young gentlewoman, casting her apron over her face, because she should see nobody till she came to her sweetheart's bedside, on Valentine's morning, was met withal in the street by another spark, who claiming her for his Valentine, and offering to salute her, she denied to uncover her lips, whereupon he kissed her apron, which another seeing him, and laughing at him, he told him he was but a fool to laugh at him, for the gentlewoman's lips tasted sweetest when strained through her apron!" (No. 85.)

The editor appears to have been a madcap Royalist, always in hot water on account of his vile personalities. The publication was very irregular, and the tavern-haunters were often left some weeks without their favourite. At such times, we gather from the insinuations of rival journals that Democritus was in durance. One fine day, however, he yielded up the ghost in earnest, and not long after there came forth a little pamphlet, now of the most excessive rarity, entitled, "A Hue and Cry after Mercurius Democritus.—O yes, O yes, O yes! If any man, woman, or child, in city or country, can tell any tale or tidings of a laughing, merry conceited fellow, called Mercurius Democritus, who hath been lost about ten weeks, and can by no means be found or heard of, let them bring word to the crier or bearer hereof, and they shall be well rewarded for their pains."

After giving a humorous description of a poor author of that era—which, by the way, presents a sad similarity to that of one of the present—the writer winds up with a pathetic "sonnet," relating his quest after his friend, whom he purports to have found where few of your readers would care to follow him.

"To Wood Street Counter then I came,
Where in a darksome cell
I called Democritus by name,
Who cry'd out I'm in hell.
On Cerberus I then did fly,
For to redeem my friend,
And then I ceaz'd my hue and cry
And so I made

AN END."

JOSEPH ASHBURY.

"A THEATRICAL Amateur" is informed that Joseph Ashbury was born in London, in 1638. He was of good family; his father married a near relative of Sir Walter Raleigh. He was educated at Eton, and subsequently through the interest of his friends obtained a pair of colours in the army under the Duke of Ormond. He went over to Ireland in the last year of Cromwell's administration, and was one of the officers who seized Dublin Castle, when Governor Jones was made prisoner, and secured in behalf of Charles II. When the Duke of Ormond became Lord Lieutenant, he was appointed one of the gentlemen of his retinue, and in 1682, through the influence of the Duke, was made Master of the Revels. He married twice; his first wife was a sister of Richards, the eminent actor; and his second a Miss Darling, a clergyman's daughter, by whom he had several children. Joseph Ashbury was perhaps the best actor of his day. Chetwood, who knew him in the latter part of his career, says his person, figure, and manner in *Don Quixote* were inimitable. Another favourite character was *Careless*, in "The Committee." His wife was also a good actress; and having an interesting person and a winning countenance, acquitted herself with considerable credit, particularly as *Mrs. Pinchwife*, in Wycherly's comedy of "The Country Wife."

Joseph Ashbury excelled in teaching others the "noble art," and had the honour of instructing the Queen when she was Princess Anne; and performed the part of *Semandra* in a play acted at Whitehall by persons of the highest rank.

He died July 24, 1720, in the 82nd year of his age, retaining his judgment to the last moment of his life.

Another noted actor of that time was Joe Trefusis; and while I am on the subject, perhaps a few anecdotes of him may not be out of place. He was the original *Trapland* in "Love for Love;" and distinguished himself as a low Comedian, and was famous for dancing an awkward country clown. It seems he was very fond of fishing, and on one occasion was enjoying his usual sport on the banks of the Liffey, when some friends were on the point of embarking for England—Joe wished to see them safe on board, and gave his fishing-rod to a friend on shore to take care of till his return; however, he was prevailed upon by his companions to accompany them to London, where he arrived with his fishing clothes upon his back, not a second shirt, and only a few shillings in his pocket. His companions left him at London, and a noted actor, named Wilks, found him gazing at the Dial in the square of Covent Garden. He hardly knew him at first, but by his particular gait, which was beyond all imitation. When he asked him how he came there and in that plight, "Hum! ha! why faith, Bobby," replied Joe, "I only came from Dublin to see what a clock it was at Covent Garden!" However, Wilks supplied him with money and clothes, and sent him back to Ireland.

Yours, &c.

British Museum, Nov. 1852. A BOOKWORM.

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Theodore Hook.

In reviewing—I mean looking over your "Current Notes," I perceive frequent allusions to poor Theodore Hook, some of them dull enough, but I do not remember to have seen in print the following *bon mots*, to the credit of which he is fairly entitled.

When leaving a somewhat crowded and miscellaneous party one evening at the same moment with the Duke of Rutland, his Grace's hat had been so carefully deposited by some obsequious servant as not readily to be discovered. "I wish you would find my hat," said the Duke, somewhat impatiently.

"And I wish," said Hook almost in a whisper at the Duke's ear, "that you could only find me such another (*Belvoir*—pronounced) Beaver."

Hook it is well known aided the late Thomas Haynes Bayly, the lyrist, "Butterfly Bayly," as he was called (the "Grub" Bayly of *Ingolsby* when found at luncheon in Cleveland-row), to dodge his creditors through London. On his way to Boulogne, where, I think, Bayly died, his previous pecuniary anxieties had seriously affected his health, and Hook prescribed for him a drive upon Putney Heath. Bayly was at this time in or nearly on the verge of the rules of the Bench, but he contrived by going quietly in the dusk by the Surrey side of the water to reach Hook's cottage at Fulham or Putney unrecognised.

Here he dined and slept, and in the afternoon of the following day, kind—"a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind"—good-natured, and generous Hook proposed to drive Bayly through the quiet green lanes of Roehampton, where Hook asserted there was no chance of any unpleasant recognition taking place.

However, they were recognised in going across Barnes Common, and Hook whipped on his cab with the view of placing his friend in safety before any unpleasant enquiries could be made.

In endeavouring to make his way towards Richmond Park he was stopped by a bar not to be overcome by payment of a toll, for which he tendered a shilling. The stolid gate-keeper's enquiry was, "Are you authorized?"

"Yes," said Hook in his own sometimes peculiar and solemn manner, pointing first to Haynes Bayly and then to himself; "*Authorized* enough I promise you."

The gate was flung open with a low bow, the shilling flung upon the ground by Hook, who muttered

"This is the
Prince Bally-Butterfly—
And I am his Highness's attendant,
Hook-am-Snivee."

Another and more respectful bow.

"Hark ye, old man," said Hook drawing up, "Mind who you let through this gate. We are going upon Hippopotimus business express, and should any one enquire after us, you can explain the matter to him clearly, very clearly to him. You now know who we are. Good morning;" and so Hook drove off triumphantly.

R.

Thomas Gent.

Can any of your Correspondents furnish me with a complete list of the works published by Thomas Gent, Printer, of York, during the last century? Chalmers enumerates a few. I notice, however, an error in his biography. He states Gent was born at York, though in one of his poems, the latter expressly says,

"In fair Hibernia first I sucked in breath."

Eboracensis.

"Castle Cornet" in Guernsey.

I am most anxious to learn the *exact* period of the commencement of the erection of Castle Cornet in the Island of Guernsey. If you or any of your friends can give it I shall be most happy, and am, Sir,

A subscriber to your valuable *Current Notes*,

H. R.

Haunted House at Willington.

Decidedly the best and most authentic ghost story of the nineteenth century is that related by Mrs. Crowe in her *Night-side of Nature*, and by Mr. Richardson in his *Table Book*, of the haunted house at Willington, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. The names of Mr. Howitt and several members of the Society of Friends are given as vouchers for the truth of the statements, and the whole affair appears to wear a respectable and trustworthy aspect. The details in the works alluded to are so curious that one naturally wishes to know something further. Will some of your Tyne-dale correspondents say whether the house is still standing, and if so are the "noises" still heard? Has the imposture or illusion ever been satisfactorily explained, and who are the present occupiers? Above all I would wish to enquire the title and date of the very suspicious "old book" in which Mr. Proctor found an account of former ghostly proceedings on the same spot. An exposure or explanation of this affair would, I have no doubt, be interesting to many of your correspondents who, like myself, have been puzzled by its seeming straightforwardness.

Sir William Segar.

I have somewhere read that Sir William Segar, Garter King at Arms, was imprisoned for granting the Royal Arms of Arragon (with a canton of Brabant) to George Brandon, the *common hangman*, but it afterwards becoming evident that he had been imposed upon, he was released. Does any authority exist for this statement?

Yours, &c.

Heraldicus.

Washington—Milton.

Who was the Washington to whom Toland ascribes the translation of Milton's celebrated Defence of the English People? Was he an ancestor of the famous American liberator?

S. W.

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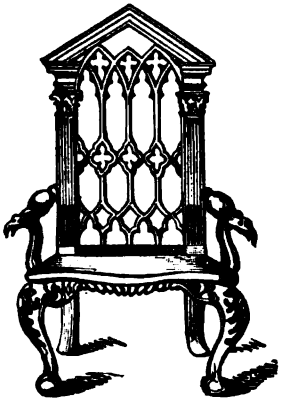
ANCIENT CHAIR.—On looking over your "Current Notes," I find in January, July, August, and December, 1851, several woodcuts of chairs. I have an ancient one in my possession, of very dark mahogany; the carving of the arms, eagles' heads, as also the claw legs, being very bold and spirited; the columns at the back are chaste. As the chair is very different from those figured in your "Notes," I have carefully sketched it, and if you think it worth engraving for such of your readers as are curious in chairs, pray do so, and at my expense.



G. SLADE BUTLER.

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S FIRST LOVE.

IN answer to the query of "M. M. P." in your last number, as to who was Sir Walter Scott's first love, "the goddess of his idolatry," I beg to say she was a Miss Stuart, daughter of Sir John Stuart of Fettercairn, in the county of Kincardine, one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer. The more favoured suitor was the late Sir William Forbes, Bart., the eminent banker. Sir William was a gentleman of a very high caste in every sense of the word, highly educated, very handsome, but shy and diffident. I have not read Lockhart's life since its first publication, but I remember to have had the same feeling at the time as "M. M. P." that there was unnecessary fastidiousness in suppressing the name of this lady, for I am certain its mention could give no possible offence to her family. When Sir Walter was overtaken by misfortune, the first of his friends to come to his aid was Sir William. In a letter written at the time, or entry in a diary (I forget which), given by Lockhart, Sir Walter feelingly alludes to the circumstance, that Sir William should be so intertwined with his fortunes at their most interesting periods.

North British Daily Mail.

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.—In the *Courier* of Tuesday, June 20th, 1815, a rumour was mentioned of Napoleon "having been defeated in a great battle near Brussels, on Sunday evening, in which he lost all his heavy artillery." The official despatches, it will be recollected, did not reach London till midnight on Wednesday. Taking into consideration the absence of steam-communication, the circumstance appears totally inexplicable; but I should be glad to have any of your correspondents' suggestion. Your classical readers will no doubt call to mind the somewhat similar occurrence related of the battle of Platæa.

L. M.

HONE'S HISTORY OF PARODY.

HONE'S *History of Parody*, which your correspondent (M. L.) enquired about in your August number, [xx. p. 72.] is one of those projected books never completed by the projector. Hone advertized it shortly after his famous trials, finding that the curious collections he had made on the subject of *Parody*, and which he used for his defence, would be a good nucleus for such a work. Soon after his death his collections were sold, (at Southgate's, Feb. 25, 1843) and I subjoin the description of four lots from the Sale Catalogue, as specimens of his gatherings on the subject:—

Lot 272. Sheet Parodies—A very extensive and curious collection from the year 1664 to 1820; Book of the Acts of the Regent; Bonaparte's Ten Commandments; The Baker's Chronicle; The Evening Lesson, 1742; Book of the Chronicles of the Chief Minister of England, 1745; Old England's Te Deum; Form of Intercession for the Delivery of John Wilkes; Tryal of the Dog of Heriot's Hospital, 1682, &c.

Lot 274. The Beau's Catechism; Ladies' Catechism; and a large Collection of Religious and Secular Parodies.

Lot 275. Parodies relating to the Rebellion, 1745; Chronicle of William the Son of George; Lamentations of Charles the Son of James, for the Loss of the Battle of Culloden, &c.

Lot 276. The Ranelean Religion, with the Liturgy, 1750; Sermon to a Congregation of Glass Bottles, 1715, &c.

No one could have done the book better than Hone; he had great literary knowledge, and a true appreciation of humour. Such tracts and broadsides are of the greatest rarity; and many years constant search is requisite to obtain them. Such a book as he proposed to do, would be still both curious and acceptable.

F. W. FAIRHOLT.

11, Montpelier Square, Brompton.

SMOKING IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

HOW was it that for some time after the introduction of tobacco its use was principally confined to the inhabitants of the Western and Southern counties? An hitherto unquoted passage, in a curious little book, entitled, "Maggots, or Pieces on several subjects never before handled," Lond. 1685, places this in a curious light:

The West is the Tobacco pipe's chief throne,
He there like Saxon Monarch reigns alone;
Wild Irish Bratts, as soon as breath they draw,
Are dosed with a kind cup of Usquebaugh.
Discretion bids us learn where'er we can,
Since wiser brutes have often tutored man;
Thus Western children, tho' not quite so ripe
As theirs, are wean'd on a Tobacco pipe."

on which a note remarks: "'Tis common in some parts of the West for children, no higher than their lace-peels, to sit working and smoking." (p. 51.)

Can any reader offer any satisfactory explanation of this beyond the mere fact of the preponderance of the custom among the denizens of Southern and Eastern climates?

V. T.

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American Free Libraries.—The Boston papers give particulars of a most princely donation recently made towards establishing a public library in that city. Mr. Joshua Bates, of the London house of Baring and Co. has written a letter to the Board of Aldermen, in which he munificently offers to contribute a sum of 50,000 dollars, £10,000 sterling. The immense call for books which now exists in the various popular institutions of New England argues well for the literary culture of the American people. It appears, from a report now before us, that the number of volumes taken out by the members of the Boston Mercantile Library was about six times greater than the whole number of books belonging to the Society. Thus, with a library of 12,000 books, upwards of 70,000 volumes were charged to the members on the librarian's ledger. This is putting a library to its legitimate and practical uses. We hope to see the noble example of the New England States extensively followed in the South.

Sale of Robert Burns's MSS. and other valuable Literary Property, at Edinburgh.

The very interesting series of letters which Burns addressed to the late George Thomson, were sold by Mr. Nisbet, at the close of the sale just completed of the library of the late Mr. C. B. Tait. The volume was put up at 200 guineas, and, after a keen competition, was knocked down for 260 guineas. The purchaser is an English nobleman, whose name has not yet transpired; but we are able to communicate what our readers, we are assured, will rejoice to learn, that there is every probability that the volume will remain in Scotland. A set of the Bannatyne Club Books, sold on the same day, was bought for the Earl of Northesk, at the price of £141. 15*s*. The books were generally well chosen, and in fine bindings. The following is a note of some of the more interesting lots:—Musée Français, 4 vols. £64. 1*s*; the Dresden Gallery, £38. 17*s*; the Florence Gallery, £35. 14*s*; the original edition of Lodge's Portraits of Illustrious Personages, 4 vols. £35. 14*s*; the smaller edition of the same work, in 12 vols. £29. 8*s*; Pickering's Fac-simile Reprints of the Six Books of Common Prayer, £16. 10*s*; Rymer's Fœdera, 20 vols. £22. 10*s*; Tillotson's Works, 14 vols. £13. 13*s*; Pope's Works, 20 vols. £15. 15*s*; Le Brun, Galerie des Peintres Flamands, £12. 12*s*; Montfaucon, L'Antiquité Expliquée, 15 vols. £17. 6*s* 6*d*; Visconti, Il Museo Clementino, 9 vols. a gift from the Pope to Cardinal Wiseman, £26. 5*s* 6*d*; Etruria Pittrice, 2 vols. £12. 1*s* 6*d*; Bacon's Works, 4 vols. £9.; Claude, Liber Veritatis, 3 vols. £21.; a curious collection of Kay's Portraits, 5 vols. £21.; Galerie du Musée Napoléon, 11 vols. £16. 16*s*; the Bible, printed by Barker in 1616, £12. 12*s*.

Spunging-house.—Unde derivatur? for certainly a spunging-house is the very last place to spunge in?

Seedy Whitecross.

Whitehall Reliques.—It is well known for a long time after the Restoration objects from Whitehall were preserved among the old cavalier families with the most religious veneration. The clock which, I believe, stood in the ante-chamber, and regulated the time of the Royal Martyr's execution, was in the possession of Mrs. Forrester, of Great Brickhill, Bucks, about the year 1798.

Can any of your readers inform me where this interesting curiosity is now? W. B.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. Willis begs to express his acknowledgments for the numerous interesting communications which have been forwarded to him, and will feel obliged by the receipt of any original articles on subjects, either of a literary or an antiquarian nature. Woodcuts, illustrative of subjects requiring them, will be executed at his expense.

All communications intended for insertion in the "*Current Notes*," must be accompanied by the Writer's real name and address, which are merely required as a guarantee of his good faith, and not for publication, except at his desire.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Angelo, Henry. Author of Pic Nic Papers; Reminiscences of his Father, &c.; Superintendent of Sword Exercise to the Army. Brighton, October 14th. Aged 72.

Bayard, Dr. Medical Writer. Paris. Lately.

Berry, Miss. Editor of Horace Walpole's Works, &c. Curzon St. Nov. 20. Aged 89.

Clark, W. Tierney. Engineer of the Hammersmith Suspension Bridge, Shoreham Suspension Bridge, Suspension Bridge of Buda-Pesth, &c. Hammersmith, September 22.

Coleridge, Sara, widow of Henry Nelson Coleridge, and only daughter of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Miscellaneous Writer. Chester Place, Regent's Park, May 3. Aged 49.

Gibson, John. Artist. Accidentally. Edinburgh. Oct. 8.

Gioberti, Signor. Religious and Political Writer. Rome. Lately.

Mantell, Gideon Algernon. Geological Writer. Author of Wonders of Geology; Medals of Creation; and numerous other valuable works. His Collection of Fossils was purchased for the British Museum for £5,000. Chester Square, November 10. Aged 63.

Morton, Saville. Paris Correspondent of the "Daily News." By the hand of his friend, Mr. Bower. Paris, October 1.

Reynolds, John Hamilton. Brother-in-Law to Thomas Hood. Contributor to Periodicals

Salvin, Rev. Hugh. Vicar of Alston, Cumberland. Miscellaneous Writer. September 28. Aged 80.

Shrewsbury, Earl of. Religious Controversial Writer. Naples, Nov. 9. Aged 63.

Webster, Daniel. Secretary of State, U. S. Oct. 24. Aged 70.

Willson, Isaac. Mechanist. Paragon Buildings, Bath. Lately.

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WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XXIV.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [DECEMBER, 1852.

BOOKSELLERS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

AMONG the collection of pamphlets in the British Museum, is one entitled:—

"The Proposal of William Laycock, of the Inner Temple, Gent. for raising a Fund for buying up a stock of scarce stitcht Books and Pamphlets; amongst which all bookish Gentlemen well know are to be found abundance of excellent Tracts and Discourses."

Laycock married the daughter of Miller, a London stationer, and in 1693 compiled a catalogue of his stock, which consisted of above two thousand reams of loose papers and pamphlets. He subsequently published the above notable plan of a Subscription Library, to consist of a complete collection of tracts on every variety of subject. The money subscribed was to be vested in the hands of certain booksellers as trustees. Some idea of its extent may be formed from the tempting list of wares which he submitted to his readers,—sufficient to have delighted the heart of a modern Bibliomaniac. For reverend divines he had pamphlets on every shade of doctrine and discipline, pro and con, Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptists, Brownists, Familists and Calvinists. To the worthy citizens of London were offered, Acts of the Common Council, Orders made by the Lord Mayor to redress certain grievances as to excess in Wearing Apparel, Tippling on Sundays, about Watermen and Carmen, Disbursements for St. Paul's Church, and Proposal for Insurance from Fire. There were tracts on Law, Mathematics, and Trade, besides a tolerable sprinkling of Parliamentary Speeches. "To such persons who are so curious as to dive into the private intrigues of State," were submitted civil and military tracts from Henry VIII. to William III. Gentlemen who delighted in husbandry might have a first-rate collection on planting, timber trees, gardening, silkworms, bees, vineyards, drainage and turnip seed, besides a goodly array of books on angling, fowling, hawking, horsemanship, and hop gardens. For such as desired them, there was a choice collection of Travels, ancient and modern, while astrologers and lovers of the marvellous might revel in the possession of a splendid variety of prodigies, visions, prophecies, prognostics, apparitions, witches, ghosts, and demons. Gentlemen might have a dainty treat with ceremonies of coronations, entertainments, funeral processions, London triumphs and pageantries. Lovers of news might feast to their hearts' content on all the newspapers published during the Great Civil War—the Parliament Scout, the Scotch Dove, the Diurnal, Moderate Intelligencer, Mercurius Rusticus, Pragmaticus, London Gazettes, London Mercuries, English Courants, and Pacquets of Advice from England, Ireland and Rome. Soldiers might fight their battles o'er again in tracts on war, encampments, gunpowder, mining, battles and sieges. Government might even be tempted with old Acts of Parliament, Proclamations and Orders of Councils: and antiquaries ponder over a goodly row of topographical and county histories. Surgeons, "those fleaing rascals," as Gay calls them in the *Beggar's Opera*, might here study treatises on the falling sickness, on fevers, agues, and the King's evil, besides becoming initiated in all the mysteries of *aurum potabile*, and transmutation of metals. General readers too were not forgotten; their appetite for literature might be duly regaled on tracts of all kinds, from Poetry to the Popish Plot. The pamphlet closes with the names of certain booksellers who had agreed to receive subscriptions, namely,

Mr. Crouch, in Cornhill,
Mr. Sprint, in Little Britain,
Mr. Hillyard of York, &c. &c.

and a list of the guineas already subscribed for the furtherance of "so good a design."

Another pamphlet is as follows:—"Proposals most humbly offered to all noblemen and gentlemen who are curious in books."

"It having been observed," says the author, "that a proper correspondent in Paris would be of great service to the learned for procuring not only new books, but also anything curious in any branch of literature, as MSS. &c. &c. as well as sending early advice of all sales and auctions of books, and catalogues, or for transacting any other affairs *in the learned and curious way*:"

wherefore, stimulated by all these praiseworthy reasons doubtless, we find the author, George Richmond, a person duly qualified, as he tells us, modestly offering the aid of his valuable and efficient services, to reside in Paris, and execute commissions for his subscribers at the annual charge of two guineas. All books, we are told, were to be supplied at prime cost.

Some curious facts are recorded in a tract, called, "The Case of the Booksellers trading beyond sea, humbly offered to the Honorable House of Commons." It appears that in a bill then pending a clause was inserted for laying an additional duty on all books imported from abroad (besides the duty to which they were already subjected). Accordingly the booksellers suggested its removal, as it "would not raise any thing considerable to the King, considering that by the best computation that can be made, *the value of foreign books imported these late years doth not amount to above £3000. per annum, the major part of which is imported by French Protestant refugees for their poor livelihood.*" Speaking of the great risks to which booksellers were subject, they declare that "generally more than half the books

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they import lie upon their hands for seven years, and at last become waste paper."

"Reasons humbly offered, &c. for Freedom of Trade in lawful Books."

At the present moment, when "the Association" is defunct, and Free Trade has shed its golden light over the dim regions of the "Row," the pamphlet I have quoted will afford some interesting particulars of the book monopolies of the seventeenth century. "The trade of printing," says the author, who was quite a Cobdenite in his ideas, "hath been an ancient manufacture of this kingdom, and as such fit to be encouraged for the public good;" yet it seems that by the monopoly of the Stationers' Company, the price of books was enhanced, and booksellers impoverished. It is well known that King James granted the Stationers' Company a license to print and sell all Primers, Psalters, Psalms, Almanacs, &c. to the exclusion of all others. By these means they pocketed about twelve per cent, besides "other frequent and more private dividends." Our own printers being thus restrained, the greater part of the printing trade was carried hence into Holland, where English Bibles, Prayer Books, and a host of others, flooded the market of all our foreign plantations, Ireland, Scotland, &c. for the gain of above cent per cent to the traders therein. We may form some idea of the extent to which this was carried, when we find that one merchant imported nearly twenty thousand Bibles yearly, and that a Jew named Athias, since 1662, printed more books of this kind than any four ofthe trade in England. Vast quantities of these books were seized by the patentees, and the persons in whose hands they were found rigorously prosecuted. The penalty being 6*s* 8*d* per copy, exorbitant sums of money were easily extorted. They do not appear to have been over-scrupulous in the transaction, for we are told, that when they had amassed a sufficient number of these Holland-printed books, they stopped their own presses, and threw them again into the market. Having accomplished this worthy proceeding, they pounced on the books they had themselves distributed, fined the owners a second time, and so managed to reap a somewhat more profitable than honest harvest.

"They joined together," says our freetrader, "and bought three horses, and sent their own clerk and beadle, and a secretarye messenger, to ride all England over to seize on the books in their patents."

Writs were then issued against the offending parties, who were forced to pay exorbitant compositions. "Mr. John Jekil stood trial for about twenty-five bibles before Judge Hales, and paid 6*s* 8*d* per book for the Bible to one patentee, and 6*s* 8*d* per book for the Psalms to the other patentees,"—though, but one book, yet, thus divided, two penalties were enforced. It cost Mr. Jekil about £50.; and the noise of this trial so frightened the poor country booksellers, that they came up to town, or sent to their London agents to compound with their prosecutors at any rate.

Authors also had to pay a premium for commenting on any portion of their text, or were forced to sell their copyrights to them for one-fourth of the price others would have given, if they had license to print them. Dr. Hammond, Poole, and many other "reverend and learned authors" were thus fleeced for using the text of the Bible to comment upon. Others who quoted Virgil, Ovid and Terence, were compelled to share the same fate.

"If," exclaims the author of the pamphlet, "the manufacture of printing were left free as other trades, it would employ above double the number of printers that are in England. Freedom of printing here would soon produce a manufacture to export, as well to our plantations as to those very countries who now furnish us and them; whereby the King's customs would be advanced, the merchant enriched, and the printer and bookbinder employed—which by these monopolies have been hitherto frustrated."

The author next exposes the abuses of the licensing system, and flatly accuses Sir Roger L'Estrange, licenser of the press, of having caused multitudes of books to be seized as seditious, and afterwards "underhand sold again by cartloads." Things went so far that even bills for stage coaches and play-bills were forbidden to be printed without a license. One house paid £8. or £10. a year for this.

"There is no authorized licenser," sarcastically explains our freetrader, "for talking, preaching, writing, but men may speak, preach and write at their peril; and why should they not print and publish at their peril too?"

It would appear, that although the Stationers' Company numbered nearly a thousand members, yet about twenty only enjoyed the monopoly—the rest were excluded from any share in the spoil.

Dublin, December 3, 1852.

FRANKING LETTERS. — Your Correspondent "K" (Current Notes, September 1852, p. 74), will find some information respecting the privilege of franking letters in Ireland prior to the Union, by consulting the "General Index of the House of Commons of Ireland," *sub voce* "*Franking Letters.*" A. S.

P. S. Is not the signature, p. 75, F. P. Strong.

CORONATION BY A POPE.

December 14, 1852.

"A few years before A.D. 1211, Pope Innocent III.* had crowned Peter II. King of Arragon at Rome, not with a golden crown, but with a crown made of unleavened bread. The reason of it was, that the Pope had a design to put the crown upon his head with his feet, which Peter would not suffer, whereupon to compromise the matter, this expedient was found out, that the Pope should appear to perform the ceremony with his hands, out of regard to the bread only." (Rimius' Memoirs of the House of Brunswick, p. 99.)

To the Editor of Current Notes.

Sir,—The above anecdote, *apropos* of the probable Imperial coronation next Spring, may be interesting.

Y. S. N.

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* The same who afterwards excommunicated, and deprived King John.

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The Battle of Waterloo.

Your Correspondent L. M. would be glad to know how it was that a rumour of the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo was heard in London on the day before that on which it was officially announced to the ministers. I am happily able to satisfy him on this point.—In February, 1822, His Royal Highness the late Duke of York, the Duke of Wellington, and several other persons of rank and distinction, among whom were some military officers who had served under the Duke, had a day's pheasant shooting at Maresfield Park, the seat of the late amiable Sir John Shelley, I had the honour of being of the party at dinner the same evening. The conversation happening to turn upon the difficulty often experienced of getting intelligence conveyed to and from a country which is the seat of war, it was remarked that Jews were often found to be quick dexterous messengers. The Duke of York observed that he understood that one of that race had brought to England the earliest intelligence of the victory at Waterloo, and asked the Duke of Wellington if he knew whether it were so, and how it came to pass. The Duke of Wellington replied, that at the conclusion of the battle, he felt that courtesy required him to send intelligence of the event immediately to the King of France, who was then at Ghent. All his aides-de-camp being either wounded or terribly fatigued after their exertions in the field, he thought of M. Pozzo di Borgo, who was at hand, and commissioned him to carry the welcome tidings, who setting out immediately arrived at Ghent in the morning when King Louis was at breakfast, a crowd of people being in the street, as usual before the windows of his hotel. A Jew among the multitude having his curiosity excited by seeing the royal party embracing each other, and exhibiting unusual signs of joy, made his way into the house, and heard from the domestics the news of the great victory. Upon this he speedily posted away to Ostend, and getting on board a vessel ready to sail for England, arrived in London, where he went first to 'Change Alley, and made his bargains there; after which he carried the news to Lord Liverpool some hours before Captain Percy arrived from Brussels with the official dispatches.

Your obedient servant, J. Mn.

Holbeach, Dec. 9, 1852.

Haunted House at Willington.

The attention of the writer having been called to the enquiries of a Correspondent in "Willis's Current Notes" for the past month, respecting the haunted house at Willington, with the Editor's permission he will briefly answer them. The house remains, and is occupied by the foreman of the mill and by a clerk, with their families. The noises, &c. have ceased for some years, (J. P. himself lived there six years before the annoyances commenced, and was afterwards a witness of them for seven years, with occasional intermission). As to illusion or imposture, there is testimony enough to establish facts wholly inconsistent with either supposition. J. Procter never saw William Howitt who derived his report from other parties cognizant of the circumstances, but trusted to his memory in transcribing them, which has occasioned several errors; and the story of the old book is one, which the writer believes to be altogether a mistake of W. H.'s. Notwithstanding this his account is substantially true. Within a few years several cases similar to that at Willington have occured in various parts of England which have been some of them published in local newspapers, no reasonable solution of them has been afforded, except by allowing the intervention of "Spirits." In the "British Banner" of the 3rd and 10th ultimo, a case of noises in a small and recently built house at Hull is circumstantially narrated, which attracted crowds of people, and which baffled the vigilance of the police all around the house and in every room assisted by a Committee of "eight scientific gentlemen" to discover.

The writer desires to express his conviction that the day is not distant when such subjects will receive a more candid and philosophic examination than is now generally bestowed on them.

J. Procter.

12th November, 1852.
Camp Ville, North Shields.

The King of Pamunkie.—I enclose you an accurate drawing two-thirds of the actual size of a silver plate or badge, which came into my possession some time since with a number of medals. It is but a trifling affair, but should you think it worthy a place in your interesting "Current Notes," perhaps some of your numerous readers may be able to throw some light as to the whereabouts of the dominions of so august a personage as "*Ye King of Pamunkie.*" From the engraving being apparently of the time of Queen Anne, I have though it probable that it may have been worn by the President or Chairman of one of the numerous coffee house clubs of that period.

C. R. Taylor.

2, Tavistock Street.

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Rare Old Ballads.

"A Prognostication upon W. Laud, late Archbishop of Canterbury, written A.D. 1641, which accordingly is come to pass.—Sold at the Black Bull in Cornhill, near the Royal Exchange."

(*With a curious sketch of Laud's body stretched on the scaffold, and his bleeding head held up by the executioner.*)

My little Lord, methinks 'tis strange
That you should suffer such a change
In such a little space:
You that so proudly t'other day
Did rule the King, and country sway,
Must trudge to 'nother place.

Remember now from whence you came,
And that your grandsires of your name
Were dressers of old cloth;
Go bid the dead men bring their shears,
And dress your coat to save your ears,
Or pawn your head for both.

The wind shakes cedars that are tall,
An haughty mind must have a fall,
You are but low, I see;
And good it had been for you still,
If both your body, mind, and will,
In equal state should be.

The King, by hearkening to your charms,
Hugged our destruction in his arms,
And gates to foes did ope;
Your staff would strike his sceptre down,
Your mitre would o'ertop the crown,
If you should be a pope.

But you that did so firmly stand,
To bring in popery to this land,
Have missed your hellish aim;
Your saints fall down, your angels fly.
Your crosses on yourself do lie,
Your crafts will be your shame.

We scorn that Popes with crozier staves,
Mitres or keys, should make us slaves,
And to their feet to bend:
The Pope and his malicious crew,
We hope to handle all like you,
And bring them to an end.

The silence clergy void of fear
In your damnation will have share,
And speak their mind at large:
Your cheesecake cap and magpie gown,
That made such strife in every town,
Must now defray your charge.

Within this six years six ears have
Been cropt off worthy men and grave,
For speaking what was true;
But if your subtle head and ears
Can satisfy those six of their's,
Expect but what's your due.

Poor people that have felt your rod
Yield *Laud* to the devil, praise to God,
For freeing them from thrall:
Your little "Grace," for want of grace,
Must lose your patriarchal place,
And have no grace at all.

Your white lawn sleeves that were the wings
Whereon you soared to lofty things,
Must be your fins to swim;
Th' archbishop's *sea* by Thames must go
With him unto the Tower below,
There to be rack't like him.

Your oath cuts deep, your lies hurt sore,
Your *canons* made Scots cannons roar,
But now I hope you'll find
That there are cannons in the Tower,
Will quickly batter down your power,
And sink your haughty mind.

The Commonalty have made a vow,
No oath, no canons to allow,
No bishops' common prayer;
No lazy prelates that shall spend
Such great revenues to no end
But virtue to impaire.

Dumb dogs that wallow in such store,
That would suffice above a score
Pastors of upright will.
Now they'll make all the bishops teach,
And you must in the pulpit preach,
That stands on Tower Hill.

When the young lads to you did come,
You knew their meaning by the drum,
You had better yielded then;
Your head and body then might have
One death, one burial, and one grave
By boys, but two by men.

But you that by your judgments clear,
Will make five quarters in a year,
And hang them on the gates;
That head shall stand upon the bridge,
When your's shall under traitors trudge,
And smile on your missed fates.

The little wren that soared so high,
Thought on his wings away to fly,
Like *finch*, I know not whither;
But now the subtle whirlywind,
Debauck, hath left the bird behind,
You two must flock together.

A bishop's head, a deputy's breast,
A *Finch's* tongue, a wren from's nest,
Will set the devil on foot;
He's like to have a dainty dish,
At once both flesh, and fowl, and fish,
And Duck and Lamb to boot.

But this I say: though your lewd life
Did fill both Church and State with strife,
And trample on the crown;
Like a blessed martyr you will die
For Church's good; she riseth high
When such as you fall down.

G. Willis *begs to thank his Correspondent for the trouble he has taken in transcribing the above rare Ballad, which the latter believes has not been reprinted since its first publication. G. W. takes the present opportunity of remarking that he will at all times feel grateful for the transmission of any curious MS. articles of a similar character.*

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Arms of the Isle of Man; or, the Three Seasons of the Ancients.

As this subject is interesting I revert to it again: the word Autumn is nowhere to be found in the Bible, and the Jews evidently had only two seasons, Winter and Summer, the reign of the bad and the good principle: one commencing at the Autumnal Equinox ushered in by the Serpent, the other at the Vernal Equinox ushered in by the Lamb, "and Summer and Winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Genesis viii. 22.) "And I will smite the Winter house with the Summer house." (Amos iii. 15.) This last expression furnishes a key to the meaning; the Good Principle destroys the works of the Bad, *i. e.* the Lamb destroys the works of the Serpent, "that old Serpent the Devil." As mankind advanced in civilization, three Seasons were instituted, and then four. I shall now shew that there are several circumstances of an extraordinary nature in the Roman Catholic system, in reference to the third Season, which will go far to prove that their priesthood have corrupted the Gospels, and not content with the grand and beautiful religion of Jesus, have added to it the ancient mythos of the Sun.

Hyde in his Commentaries on Ulugbeigh, states in the article on Cancer, that "prima stella (in Cancer) Arabibus vocatur Ma' laph, *i. e.* Præsepe. idem quod Græc. Φατνη. Vocatur item Al Nethra." p. 35.

"Al Nethra est una ex mansionibus Lunæ quæ constat *duabus stellis*." p. 35.

"Stellæ quarta ac quinta Arabice audiunt Al Himarein *i. e.* Duo Asini, qui in dicto præsepi pascere videntur. Græcis, Ὄνοι vel Ὀνίσκοι Aselli." p. 36.

Here then we have the important fact that in Cancer which is at the Summer Solstice there are two stars called the Asses, and by the Greeks called both Asses, and little Asses, together with two others called the Crib, or Manger. "in which they seem to feed." It follows from the above that the Sun necessarily attains the summit of his glory, or in other words rides in triumph into his domicile on an Ass. It is known also that the Sun having arrived at that point (June 21) was said in ancient religions to have triumphed, or gained the victory, and after that to be in a state of repose before he began his downward career. It is known also there were two doors or gates of heaven, one in Cancer and the other in Capricorn. Let us now examine the circumstances related in the Gospels. They are these: "Two asses are at Bethphage on the Mount of Olives." (Matt. xxi.)

"A Colt whereon never man sat is tied by the door WITHOUT in a place where TWO *ways met*." (Mark xi.)

There "is peace in Heaven and glory in the Highest." (Luke xix.)

"They took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him." (John xii.)

Why has Matthew two asses, and one of them a little ass? I reply, because there are two stars called asses, and by the Greeks called also little asses.

And why at Bethphage? Because Bethphage is a word signifying House of meeting, from בית house, and פגש to meet; and the two stars called Asses are at the Summer Solstice where two ways meet; Bethphage may also mean Eating House, from בית house, and Φαγω to eat, and may allude to the Crib, or Manger, the eating house of the asses, "qui in dicto præsepi pascere videntur." And why the Mount of Olives? Because the Sun having attained his utmost height was allegorically said to be on a mountain, and after that to be in a state of repose, or peace, of which the olive was the symbol. And why an ass on which no man ever sat? Because it is the Zodiacal Ass on which no man ever sat, or ever will sit. And why is the ass tied to the door WITHOUT in a place where two ways met? I reply, because the Zodiacal Ass is fixed or tied to Cancer on its shell OUTSIDE, (*i. e.* without) and which was one of the doors of Heaven, and is at the Summer Solstice, which is the place where two ways met. And why peace in Heaven and glory in the Highest? Because the Sun having attained the highest pitch of glory at the Summer Solstice, then goes into a state of repose according to the opinion of the ancients; and consequently there is peace in heaven. And why do the multitude bring branches of palm trees? Because the Sun having attained the height of his power, and gained the victory, the symbol of the Sun and of victory is presented to him, viz. the palm.

It follows from the above that the triumphal entry is an allegory upon the Sun at the Summer Solstice, and belongs equally to the Heathen and Christian religions. It is evident the time has arrived when a separation must be made between what constitutes the simple and beautiful religion of Jesus, and the mythos added to it in a subsequent age by the Catholic Priesthood.

Diagram illustrating the three Seasons, and the contest between the two principles of Light and Darkness.

Triumphal entry.
Summer Solstice.
Place where the two ways met.

Introduction of evil by the Serpent Winter.

Spring. Redemption of evil by the Lamb.

Birth in a stable.
Winter Solstice.

F. Snaith, M.D.

Holbeach, Dec. 10, 1852.

The controversy respecting the "Arms of the Isle of Man" having already occupied considerable space, the publisher respectfully intimates that he cannot admit any more articles on the subject.

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Arms of the Isle of Man.

Your Correspondent Dr. Snaith says, "there is neither difficulty nor mystery" in this subject, yet I hope I may be allowed to say that his dissertation has, in my opinion, only made it darker; and I beg to submit to your readers my own more lucid and veracious account of the matter. It is well known that the Isle of Man was formerly rather a dependency than an integral part of the British Empire, and being governed by its own laws, and enjoying peculiar privileges, was long, and perhaps is now, resorted to as an asylum by fugitive debtors, who were vulgarly said to have given their creditors *leg bail*. Now this, I think, will explain the arms in question, for the three legs represent the refugees who fled to the island from the three neighbouring kingdoms, and the spurs upon the heels are emblematical of the speed with which they fled from their creditors.

I am aware, Sir, that this explanation will not satisfy all your readers, but I cannot believe that any who approve the Doctor's inferential and take-for granted style will object to it. Caleb Greenspecs.

December 11th, 1852.

To F. Snaith, M.D.

Sir,—A tripod was, *primarily*, a sacred symbol of the Trinunity; secondly, "it expressed some priesthood or sacerdotal dignity." Spanheim. "A seat or stool whereon the priests and sybils were placed to render *oracles*." Lond. Encyc. which expresses exactly the Chinese *ting*, a tripod. See two of the *very ancient* figures in Hager's Chin. symbols and hieroglyphs, p. xxxvi. In the last the real nature and use of the seat is beautifully described, viz. the mouth or *speech* between two props or *serpents:* these serpents can only mean the good and the bad spirit. The tripod *never did* and *never could* refer to three seasons of the year.

In describing the number of seasons, you have omitted the *one season* and the *five seasons*, and have fixed upon the three seasons merely to make the tripod represent Spring, Summer, and Winter! But here again the Chinese, Sanscrit, Egyptian, and other languages are against you. Spring is thus described; "the *beginning* of Summer, *presenting* the sun." See Oriental Zodiac. *Autumn* is thus described: "the *departing* of Summer, *gathering in* the fruits of the earth," &c.

With regard to your diagram, I have merely to say that you would have done better to have taken for your model the Oriental Zodiac, of which Sir William Jones says in the Asiatic Researches, vol. ii. p. 289, that it "was probably invented by the *first* progenitors of the Hindu race before the dispersion," and "*three* of the figures I firmly believe, from internal and external evidence, to be more than *three thousand* years old," p. 305. To which I beg to add that *more than three* must have been as old as the time when astronomy was *first* studied. *Sat est.*

I had almost forgotten the advertisement, "wanted a person of erudition, &c." Tollite cachinnum. There are two deities of the name of Serapis; the first is the symbol of Spring, and the second of *Autumn*, and may actually be identified with Autumn. "Τυτον οι μεν Δια το μοδιον εχειν εν τη κεφαλη." Suidas. He may be supposed to be *the gatherer in of the fruits of the earth*, the collector of the autumnal harvest. But the poet Thomson in his description of Autumn will not perhaps be excelled in the present day.

Mr. S. must not suppose that I can spend more of my time in replying to such flimsy criticisms.

Southwick near Oundle, December 3rd, 1852. Yours truly, T. R. Brown.

Arms of the Isle of Man.

Your learned Correspondent, the Rev. T. R. Brown, has called the attention of your readers to the Arms of the Isle of Man, and has pointed out the curious fact of the existence of figures nearly resembling those arms, one on an ancient Sicilian coin, and another in an engraving in "Gesenii Monumenta Phœnicia." The trifling difference between the figures is that whereas the Mona device has simply three legs joined together, with spurs at the heels, and the motto, or legend, "Quocunque jeceris stabit" (as may be seen in the coins of the island, one of which I have before me, of the year 1786), the figure in Gesenius has a human face in the centre, and that on the Sicilian coin has, in the same place, a blank shield, and something like a spike of Egyptian wheat, or of maize, between the legs. It would be historically interesting, and would gratify a rational curiosity, if this resemblance should lead to the discovery that commercial, or any other kind of intercourse had in ancient times existed between the shores of the Mediterranean and this little British island, of which at present there appears no other trace. In the mean time, it is impossible not to pity the weakness and blindness of another of your correspondents, F. Snaith, M.D. of Holbeach, who has found in this subject occasion, by the help of scraps of second-hand learning, raked together out of the rubbish of French sophistry, to insinuate opinions antagonistic to the sacred truths of Christianity, and, by mixing them up with heathen fables, to endeavour to make them appear equally worthless. By his "Ipse Dixit," he has converted the three spurs at the heels of the device, and the face in the figure in Gesenius, into four suns, which seem, by their excess of light, to have blinded the doctor, or so dazzled his eyes, that he can see nothing clearly. In that prophetic and most sublime description of the last judgment, given by our Saviour in the 25th chapter of St. Matthew, he can see only a fabulous allegory; and he is of opinion that if a history of Serapis, the Egyptian Pluto, or god of darkness, whom he identifies with Autumn, or the season which declines into dark winter, "were written by a person of erudition, it would be found so interwoven with the doctrines of Christianity, as would fill the public mind with astonishment;" that is to say, Christianity would be found to be a compound of darkness and fable, as absurd as the idolatrous superstitions of ancient Egypt. Truly, "light has come into the world," but there are men who "love darkness rather than light."

Bleak House, Dec. 10, 1852. Jarndyce.

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Sir William Segar, Garter.

In answer to "Heraldicus," in your November number, I send the following, which is from Mark Noble's History of the College of Arms:—

"His Majesty conferred the title of Knighthood upon him (Sir W. S.), Nov. 5, 1616. In the following month, incurring the royal displeasure, he was imprisoned. He had imprudently given a man the royal arms of Arragon with a canton of Brabant, or at least confirmed them, for the small sum of twenty-two shillings. This man was sent by Brook, or Brooksworth, York Herald, the most vicious and abandoned character that ever disgraced any society. The man who sued and obtained the grant or confirmation was Brandon, the public executioner. York, finding his diabolical scheme succeed so far, shewed the grant to the King, who was highly exasperated. But at length the iniquitous business being unravelled, Garter was restored to freedom and favour."

Camden, Clarenceux, a contemporary, thus speaks of this scandalous business:—

"Dec. 17, 1616. William Segar, King at Arms, was accused of giving the arms of Arragon, with a canton of the arms of Brabant, to George Brandon, the hangman of London. This gave great displeasure to the King, but the matter was detected, that it was done by the infamous malice of Ralp Brookesworth. The Herald, who was an hired emissary, drew the arms not dissimilar to those of Arragon, with a canton of those of Brabant, and abused the easy credulity of Garter, who, for twenty-two shillings, obtained a confirmation of them, and which he took care to shew to the King. Dec. 30th, Garter, York, and other Heralds were called before the delegates for the Earl Marshal; but the King, as an example of justice to York for his malicious subornation, and to Garter for his easy belief and ignorance, and for displaying the arms for so small a sum of money, was desirous to punish them; they were therefore both delivered into the custody of the Marshalsea. Jan. 1, 1617, a petition was presented to the King in the name of Garter, with the testimony of the Heralds in his favour. His honesty, integrity and good carriage were so strongly urged to his Majesty by the members of the College, that he was set at liberty, and in the most honorable manner restored to all the privileges of his situation."

In Dallaway's Heraldry, under the head of "Ralph Brooke, or Brookesworth," I find a note containing the following information, from which it appears that before Camden's admission, Brooke's spleen was principally directed against Sir William Segar; of which Bishop Gibson relates the following circumstances:—

"After he (Camden) became a member of the College, he discharged his office with great integrity, and maintained an amicable correspondence with all his brethren. How far his adversary had a claim to this character, let the following instance witness. Upon a private pique against one of the College, he contrived such a malicious piece of revenge as is not commonly heard of. He employed a person to carry a coat of arms to him ready drawn, who was to pretend that it belonged to one Gregory Brandon (a gentleman who had formerly lived in London, but was then in Spain), and to desire he would set his hand to it. The man does his errand, and that there may be no time for consideration, pretends that the vessel that was ready to carry it, was just ready to sail. He, not in the least suspecting any design, without more ado receives his fee, and puts the seal of the office, with his own name, to the paper. Presently Brooks carries it to Thomas Earl of Arundel (then one of the Commissioners for the office of Earl Marshal), and assured him that these were the arms of the kingdom of Arragon, with a canton of Brabant; and that Brandon, to whom he had granted them, was a mean inconsiderable man. The Earl acquainted the King with the whole matter, and his Majesty resolved that the person who had set to the seal should be turned out of his place, and upon a hearing in the Star Chamber, be severely fined for his affront to the Crown of Spain; but at the intercession of the Earl of Pembroke, his Majesty grew more calm, and was prevailed with to refer it to the Commissioners. When they came to a hearing, the gentleman who had been thus imposed on, submitted himself entirely to the mercy of the Court; but withal desired their Lordships to consider, that it was a mere oversight, and that it was the importunity of the messenger that led him, contrary to his usual method, to pass it without deliberation. Brooke, on the other hand, declared openly in court, that it was from beginning to end a contrivance of his own to gain an opportunity of convincing their Lordships of the sordidness of the other, who for the sake of a fee would be guilty of so gross a knavery. They were amazed at the confidence of the man; and when his Majesty heard the circumstances of the case, he ordered both to be committed to prison; one for treachery, and the other for negligence."

Broctuna.

Bury, Lancashire, November, 1852.

The Tuckers of Lamerton in the Co. of Devon.

Sir,—Can any of your readers oblige me with any information relative to this family, and more particularly of Stephen Tucker of Lamerton, to whom Henry VIII. gave permission by deed to sit covered in the Royal presence, "or elsewhere at his libertie," and where the original document is? They were, I believe, connected with the Tuckers, or Tookers of Exeter, of which family Robt. Tooker was mayor of the city in 1538, and whose grandson, Wm. Tooker, was the celebrated Dean of Lichfield. The last representative of this branch in Exeter was, I believe, Mr. Wm. Tucker, a banker, who has been some time dead.

Friar Tuck.

Sir,—Can you furnish me with any particulars of Richard Smith, a noted bibliomaniac of the seventeenth century, and of whom there is a very rare and fine engraving by W. Sherwin. The auction catalogue of his library contains some curious articles—volumes printed by Caxton, and rare books, "the very insertion of which," says Dibdin, "in a bookseller's catalogue, would probably now make a hundred bibliomaniacs start from their homes by starlight, in order to come in for the first pickings." Yours, &c.

Rusticus.

Leyburn, near Bedale, Yorkshire.
November 27, 1852.

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Superstitions of Cockney-land.

Just now when there is such a lamentable calm in the archæological world, when all the brasses have been rubbed, all the walls scraped, and all our counties ransacked for choice bits of folk-lore to supply the columns of your own and contemporary periodicals; I have thought that it would not be unacceptable if I were to send you a few old-world fragments, from a new source, culled not among the quiet nooks of some remote province but gleaned among the range of highways and byeways which intersect the heart of noisy, bustling, go-a-head Cockaigne! No sneers, Mr. Reader,—that pains-taking wight—Pegge, did not consider it beneath his dignity to collect the lingual vagaries of the Londoner, and why should I think it beneath mine to chronicle his mental ones? Traces of the genuine Cockney race—quiet slow-going folk who smoke very long pipes, and tell very long stories of the riots in the glorious days

"When George the great was king,"

though now, alas! well nigh extinct, are still to be met with in divers places within the reach of Bow bells,—the old wards between Barbican and Aldgate to wit, and the quaint old portions of Rotherhithe, still known among the aborigines by its ancient Saxon name of Redriff. Many curious old customs and superstitions long since fled from politer neighbourhoods still linger among these people. In these localities the horse-shoe still asserts its anti-magical properties, and here it is that the cunning woman finds her victims. Your true cockney always belongs to the genus *gullible*,—in Pepys' time he patronized Palmistry and paid a *carolus* to have his nativity cast; now a-days he sends twelve postage stamps to the Original Mesmeric Phenomenon, and swallows Elixir Life Pills by the gross. Here are a few of the more curious Metropolitan *prejuges* which are not to be found in Brand or the other collectors:

A pigeon settling upon a house is believed to be a sign of death to some of the inmates.—By a curious passage in the Vasanta-Rajasha-Koona it appears that this is also an article of Hindoo belief.

Live as long as you will there is one thing you will never see, and that is a dog following a Jew.

To meet a clergyman first thing in the morning is deemed very bad luck. From personal observation I am inclined to say the same thing of the tax-man.

It is a most preposterous thing to eat pig's marrow; everybody knows that it drives people mad. There is a curious Welsh proverb in Howell's collection, which alleges the same thing.

Sir Kenelm Digby's doctrine of sympathy finds favour in London. It is currently believed (though not, I opine, in the latitude of Holywell Street) that a dead person's clothes decay as fast as his body decomposes.

Mr. Calcraft's Old Bailey manipulations have a very sensible influence upon the elements. Just before the execution of the Mannings an ancient dame averred to me that we should have no change in the weather till after "them willans was worked off."

Incipient cockneys under twelve months must never have their nails cut; if they should, ten to one but they turn out most arrant thieves.

The Christmas observances of Cockaigne are now, alas! well nigh forgotten, and with the exception of the Waits and some of the old customs at the guild-meetings of the smaller companies, scarcely anything remains to remind us of them. A few dim shadows, however, still linger. Many of your country readers may not be aware that it is still customary for the London chandlers to present their customers with small coloured yule-candles to be burnt on Christmas Eve. These candles are not unlike the tapers we see burning before street images of the Virgin in continental cities, and probably had a similar origin. The yule-log is also very general. The genuine cockney cannot reconcile the idea of Christmas with a coal fire. Among the old standards it is taken from the fire when only half burnt, and carefully preserved in the cellar or some other safe place, there being a belief that its possession is a sovereign preservative against fire! I once knew a man who considered a log of this character as safe as a Sun fire policy. He used to keep a regular series of them under his sideboard, and when any one was inclined to be heretical he would point to them triumphantly,—"Them's the logs for five year—my house is still standing;" and an inference so obvious and logical it was of course impossible to withstand.

With many thanks, Mr. Willis, for the able manner in which you cater for our monthly "banquette of pleasant delites," and greeting both yourself and your readers with that hearty old English salutation,

A merrie Christmasse and a happie Newe Yeare,

Your obedient servant,

J. Dryasdust, Junior.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. Willis begs to express his acknowledgments for the numerous interesting communications which have been forwarded to him, and will feel obliged by the receipt of any original articles on subjects, either of a literary or an antiquarian nature. Woodcuts, illustrative of subjects requiring them, will be executed at his expense.

All communications intended for insertion in the "*Current Notes*," must be accompanied by the Writer's real name and address, which are merely required as a guarantee of his good faith, and not for publication, except at his desire.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Bayley (F. W. N.) Miscellaneous Writer, Birmingham.

Empson, William. (Professor of Civil Law at the East India College, Haileybury; Editor of the *Edinburgh Review*). Haileybury. 10th December. Aged 63.

Gallardo, D. Bartolomeo. Author of Diccionario Critico-Burlesco. Alcoy, Valencia, returning from the Baths. About September.

Lee, Samuel. Late Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Cambridge. Barley Rectory, Herts. Dec. 16.

McDiarmid, John. More than 30 years Editor and Proprietor of the *Dumfries Courier*. Lately.

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212 Pulitzer Pl. Pt.
Oct 28/73.

Dear Sir —

I have hunted up the letters of Mr Desforges & find that the amount for which he has drawn was remitted to him June 26/73.

I have written to him upon the subject.

Truly
John W. Kline

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